Kovilloor Academy

THE ROYAL TREASURY

of Story and Song

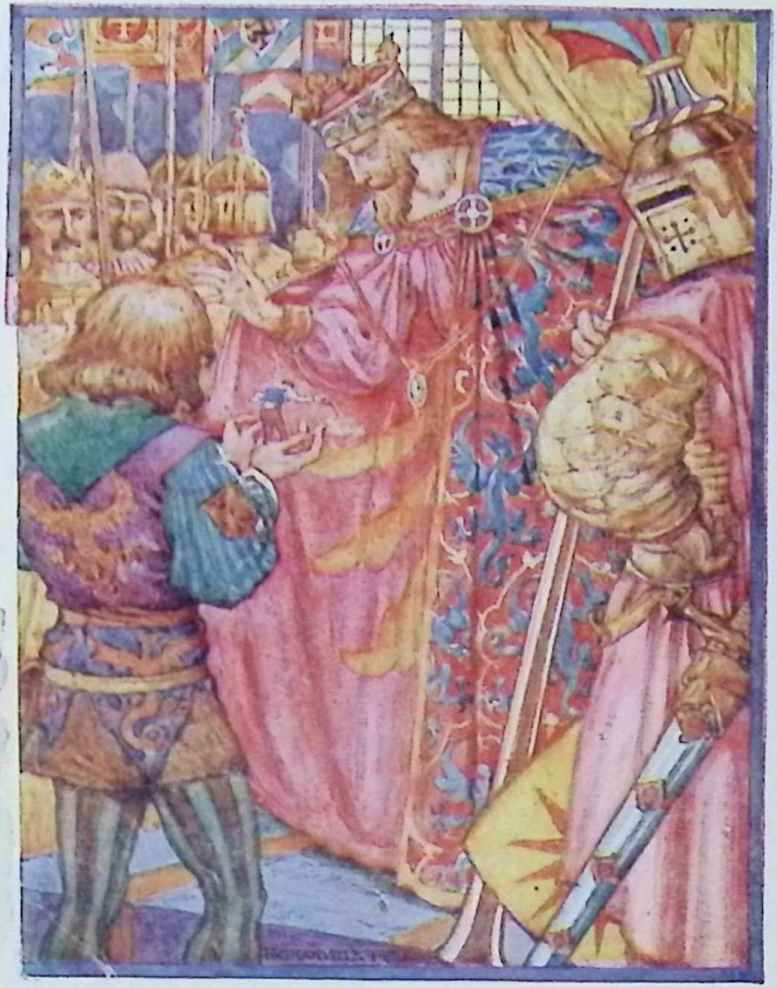
460
SUPPU

Part II.

THOMAS NELSON AND SONS, Ltd.

355

Koviloor Acadamy



Tom Thumb and King Arthur.

Koviloor Acadamy

THE ROYAL TREASURY OF STORY AND SONG

Part II.

FAIRY FAVOURS

A.R.P.L.S.P.L.

விவேகானந்த புத்தகசாலை
ஹிந்து மதாபிமான சங்கம்
காரைக்குடி.

THOMAS NELSON AND SONS, LTD.
LONDON, EDINBURGH, NEW YORK
TORONTO, AND PARIS

Tm30460

Koviloor Acadamy

CONTENTS.

I.—FIRESIDE TALES.

The Iron Stove	7
Queen Mab and Oberon	29
The Merry Tricks of Tom Thumb	44
Shemus and the Little People	65
The Mermaid's Cap	80
The Herdsman who Wedded the King's Daughter	94
The Three Foolish People	124
Mr. Vinegar—The Happiest Man Alive	135
The Emperor's Dream	147

II.—SONGS OF THE FAIRIES.

The Fairies of the Caldon-Low (*M. Howitt*)	24
The Fairy Queen (*Old Song*)	42
The Night-Piece (*R. Herrick*)	43
Robin Good-Fellow (*Old Song*)	61
The Fairies (*W. Allingham*)	75
Fairy Music (*W. Shakespeare*)	77
The Fairy Shoemaker (*W. Allingham*)	90
Mabel on Midsummer Day (*M. Howitt*)	114
Change About (*Old Rhyme*)	133
The Little Land (*R. L. Stevenson*)	144
In the Nursery (*Jean Ingelow*)	156

Things to Say and Do 159

Koviloor Acadamy

THE ROYAL TREASURY.

PART II.—FAIRY FAVOURS.

THE IRON STOVE.

I.

In days of old, a certain wicked witch cast a spell over a young prince; and he was forced to spend all his time sitting within an iron stove in a wood. Here he stayed for some years, and nobody was able to set him free.

One day a king's daughter came into the wood. She had lost her way while out for a walk; and try as she would, she could not find her father's palace again.

For nine days she wandered about among the trees, and on the tenth she came to the place where the iron stove stood. She was filled with wonder when she saw it; but her wonder grew greater

Koviloor Acadamy

when she heard the sound of a voice come from within it.

"Whence have you come?" asked the voice; "and where do you wish to go?"

Then said the princess, "I have wandered far from the palace of the king, my father, and have lost my way. I wish with all my heart that I could find my way home."

The voice spoke once again out of the iron stove. "I will show you the way home, and quickly too, if you will promise to do what I wish. I am richer than you are, and I should be glad to marry you."

The maiden felt very much afraid, and she said in a whisper, "Oh, what shall I do? How can I marry an iron stove?"

However, as she wished very much to go home to her father, she made the promise that was asked of her. Then the voice said,—

"Now I will give you a guide to your father's palace. But you must come back again later, and bring a knife with you to scrape a hole in the iron of the stove."

Koviloor Acadamy

Then the princess seemed to feel something or somebody take her by the hand and lead her through the forest. And before long she stood alone at the gateway of her father's palace.

II.

Meanwhile the king had been searching far and near for his daughter the princess. And he was almost mad with grief because he was unable to find her.

Then the news was brought to him that the princess was at the palace gate, safe and sound. Out ran the king, with his

Koviloor Acadamy

royal robe gathered up in his hand; and taking the girl in his arms, he kissed her again and again.

But to his surprise the maiden was very sad. "Dear father," she said, "little do you know what has happened to me. Never again should I have seen you if I had not been helped by an iron stove."

"An iron stove!" cried the king, thinking for a moment that his child had lost her wits.

"Yes, indeed," said the princess—"an iron stove. And what is more, in return for its help I have promised to marry it."

When the poor king heard this he almost fell to the ground in his fright, for the princess was his only child.

As soon as he was once more seated on his throne he called his wise men to him, and told them what had happened. Then he ordered them to get him and his daughter out of the trouble they were in, and to do it at once.

The wise men sat for a long time talking over the matter. At last one of

Koviloor Acadamy

them said, "Let us send out as the bride of the iron stove, not the princess, but the miller's daughter. After all, she is very beautiful."

"Excellent," said one. "Very good," said another. "Not so bad," said a third. "We can try the plan," said a fourth, who had no better plan of his own.

So they sent for the miller's daughter. The princess told her where she would find the stove. Then she gave the girl a knife, and told her how she must scrape the iron; and the girl set out on her way.

Nobody had thought it needful to ask *her* whether she wished to marry an iron stove or not.

III.

In due time the girl came to the place where the stove was standing. But though she scraped for hours and hours, she could not make a hole in it. As the next day began to dawn, however, she heard a voice from the stove.

"It seems to me," it said, "that day is dawning out there."

"Yes," said the girl; "it seems so to

Koviloor Acadamy

me also. I think I hear my father's mill turning."

"Oh, then you are a miller's daughter! Go straight back, and send to me *the king's daughter*, and no one else."

So the girl went back to the royal palace, and told the old king that the iron stove would not marry her. He wanted the princess, she said, and the princess he meant to have.

The king was filled with fear, and the poor princess wept many bitter tears. Then there came before them one of the wise men.

He said that he knew of a swineherd who had a very beautiful daughter, and that this girl would be willing to go to the wood if a piece of gold were given to her.

Then the king was filled with joy, and he sent at once for the daughter of the swineherd. The girl came before him, and all the lords and ladies were surprised to find her so beautiful.

She was told what she had to do; and before long the girl was on her way to

The girl came before him.

Koviloor Acadamy

the wood with a gold piece in her pocket and a knife in her hand. Soon she came to the iron stove, and set to work to scrape a hole in its side.

All that day and the night following she scraped, but without any effect. At last, when the next day was beginning to dawn, a voice called from within the stove, "It seems to me it is day out there."

Then the girl said, "It seems so to me also. I think I hear my father's little horn sounding."

"Then you must be the swineherd's daughter," cried the voice in an angry tone. "Go away at once, and send to me THE KING'S DAUGHTER, and no one else. And tell the princess that if she does not come at once, everything in her father's kingdom will tumble down."

IV.

When the princess heard this she began to cry; but there was no help for it —she must keep her promise. She took leave of her father with many bitter tears

Koviloor Acadamy

of sorrow; then she put a knife in her pocket, and went out to the iron stove in the wood.

When she got there she began to scrape the iron. In two hours she found that she had already made a little hole, through which she could see with one eye.

Stooping down, she looked in, and saw a most beautiful youth. He was so finely dressed in cloth of gold that the princess thought she had never before seen any one so grand.

Then said the prince as he stepped out of the stove, "You are mine, and I am yours. You have set me free, and you are my queen from this day forward."

Having said this, he held out his hand and wished to lead the maiden away at once to his own home. But the princess begged leave to go first to say good-bye to her father.

"You may do this," said the prince, "if you will. But you must speak no more than three words to him, and then come back to me at once."

Koviloor Acadamy

So the princess went home. But, alas! being a little chatterbox, she spoke more than three words.

Thereupon the iron stove was carried away by fairy hands over the mountains and over the sea; and when the princess came back she could not find it. Nor could she find the prince, for he had gone home to his own people, thinking that the princess had forgotten him.

For nine long days she wandered through and through the wood. One night she climbed into a tree to sleep, because she was afraid of the wild beasts; and she saw afar off a little shining light.

"Oh, there I should be safe," she said to herself. So she climbed down and went towards the light.

Soon she came to a little old house overgrown with grass, with a small heap of wood before the door. She looked through the window, and saw a number of fat frogs round a table spread for dinner. Gently and timidly she knocked at the door.

Koviloor Acadamy

Then the fattest frog called out,—

"Maiden sweet and small,
Hutzelbein I call;
Hutzelbein's little dog,
Creep about and see
Who this can be."

At once a little frog came and opened the door for her, and as soon as she came in all the frogs bade her welcome. "Whence have you come?" croaked they. "Where do you wish to go?"

Then she told them the whole of her story, and she finished by saying that she meant to wander all over the wide world till she found the prince.

Thereupon the fattest frog said,—

"Maiden sweet and small,
Hutzelbein I call;
Hutzelbein's little dog,
Creep about and see—
Bring the great box to me."

At once the little frog brought the box. Afterwards they gave the princess food and drink, and took her to a pretty bed, made of silk and velvet. She laid herself down, and soon was fast asleep.

Koviloor Acadamy

V.

When morning came the princess arose. After breakfast the fattest frog gave her three long needles, a plough-wheel, and three nuts from his box; and he told her to take them with her.

"You will need them," said he; "for you will have to go over a high glass mountain, and three sharp swords, and a great lake. If you can pass all these, you will reach the home of your prince."

At once she set off, and in due time came to the glass mountain, which was, of course, very slippery. But by the help of the three needles she was at last able to climb over it. When she got to the other side she hid the needles and went on her way.

Then she came to a narrow place where three sharp moving swords barred the path. But she seated herself upon her plough-wheel and rolled right over them.

Later she came to a great lake, and by the side she found a boat with a black sail, which made her feel afraid. But

She stepped aboard.

Koviloor Acadamy

she stepped aboard with a gay song upon her lips. At once the wind filled the sail, and she was carried quickly across the lake, singing as she went.

On the other side she found a great castle, in which the prince lived. Then she stained her face and hands with walnut juice, as the frogs had told her; and she went to the cook and asked for work as a kitchen-maid.

"Come in," said the cook; "we need an extra maid, for our young master's wedding feast is to take place very soon. It is true that his bride is not very nice, and that he is being forced to marry her, but that is nothing to us in the kitchen."

These words filled the heart of the princess with sadness; but she set to work, and soon washed up the dishes. Then in the evening she happened to put her hand into her pocket, and found the three nuts.

She bit one open, as she wished to eat the kernel. But she found within it a silk dress of such fineness as she had never seen before. The other servants

Koviloor Acadamy

were filled with wonder at it, and one of them ran to tell the bride all about the kitchen-maid's beautiful gown.

VI.

The princess came into the kitchen at once, and was filled with anger at the kitchen-maid for buying such a fine dress.

"You may have it for yourself," said the maid, "if you will ask the prince to let me sleep to-night on the mat outside his door."

"That is a strange thing to ask," said the princess. "But you shall have your desire."

When night came the kitchen-maid lay down on her strange bed. But instead of going to sleep she said, softly and sadly, over and over again,—

"I set you free from the wild wood and the iron stove. I have come over a glass mountain, three sharp swords, and a wide lake to find you. And now you will not hear me."

The prince slept on, for the princess had given him a sleeping drink before he

Koviloor Acadamy

went to rest, and he did not hear a word of the poor maid's sad song.

The next day the girl brought out of the second nut a dress which was even finer than that from the first. And she gave this also to the princess for leave to sleep on the mat. But she was not any more fortunate than before.

The dress from the third nut was finer than that from the second. And again the girl got ready to spend the night on the mat. But this time the prince lay wide awake, for he had refused to take the drink which the princess offered him.

When he heard the voice of the maid he jumped up and ran to the door. Opening it in a hurry, he saw at once who it was that stood there.

Taking her by the hand, he ran to the courtyard of the castle, though it was now the middle of the night. Then without a word he placed the girl in his coach, and drove away at topmost speed.

Next morning they came to the little house in the wood where the princess

Koviloor Acadamy

had seen the frogs. But to her surprise there were no frogs, for they had all been changed into princes and princesses; and they were all ready to make merry at the wedding, which took place that day.

Koviloor Acadamy

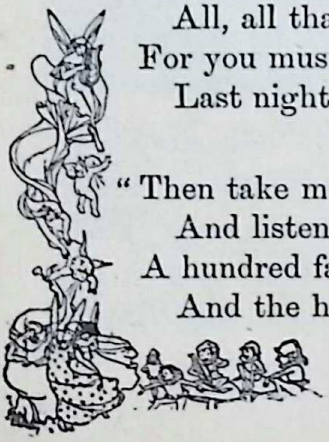
THE FAIRIES OF THE CALDON-LOW.

"And where have you been, my Mary,
And where have you been from me?"
"I've been to the top of the Caldon-Low,
The Midsummer Night to see."

"And what did you see, my Mary,
All upon the Caldon-Low?"
"I saw the blithe sunshine come down,
And I saw the merry winds blow."

"And what did you hear, my Mary,
All up on the Caldon Hill?"
"I heard the drops of water made,
And I heard the corn-ears fill."

"Oh, tell me all, my Mary,
All, all that ever you know;
For you must have seen the fairies
Last night on the Caldon-Low."



"Then take me on your knee, mother,
And listen, mother of mine.
A hundred fairies danced last night,
And the harpers they were nine;

Koviloor Acadamy

'And merry was the glee of the harp-strings,
And their dancing feet so small;
But oh! the sound of their talking
Was merrier far than all!"

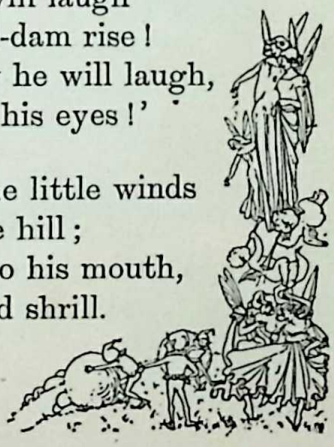
"And what were the words, my Mary,
That you did hear them say?"
"I'll tell you all, my mother;
But let me have my way.

"For some they played with the water,
And rolled it down the hill;
'And this,' they said, 'shall speedily turn
The poor old miller's mill;

"'For there has been no water
Ever since the first of May;
And a busy man shall the miller be
By the dawning of the day.

"'Oh, the miller, how he will laugh
When he sees the mill-dam rise!
The jolly old miller, how he will laugh,
Till the tears fill both his eyes!'

"And some they seized the little winds
That sounded over the hill;
And each put a horn into his mouth,
And blew so sharp and shrill.



Koviloor Acadamy

"'And there,' said they, 'the merry winds go
Away from every horn;
And those shall clear the mildew dank
From the blind old widow's corn.

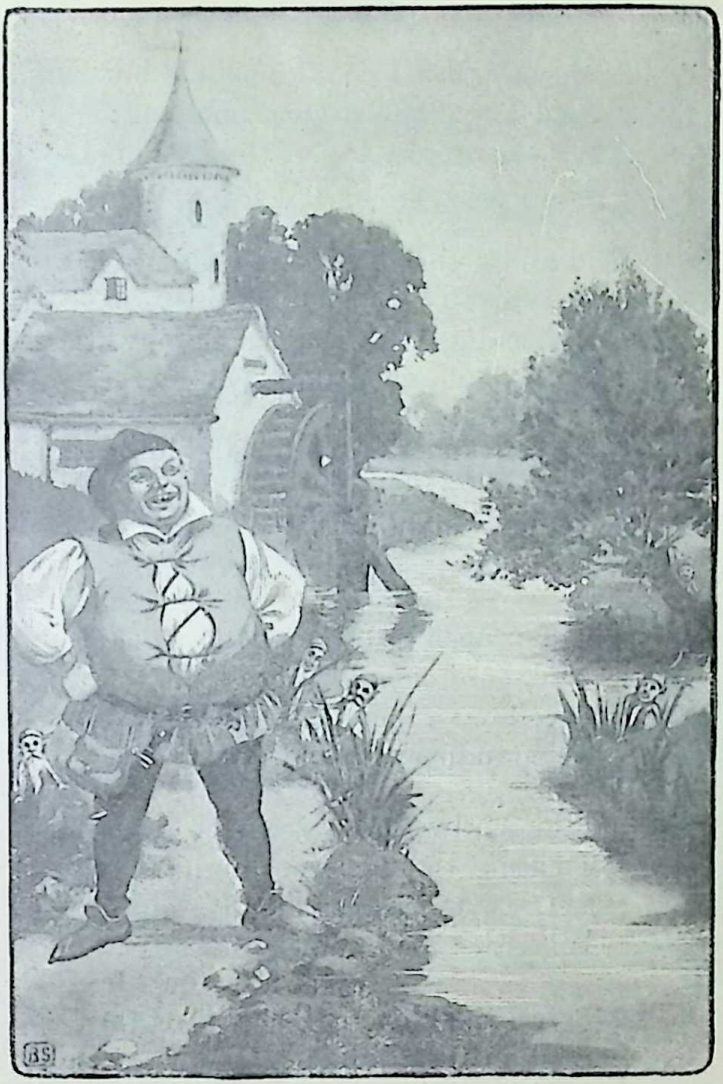
"'Oh, the poor blind widow—
Though she has been blind so long,
She'll be merry enough when the mildew's gone,
And the corn stands stiff and strong!'

"And some they brought the brown linseed,
And flung it down from the Low;
'And this,' said they, 'by the sunrise,
In the weaver's croft shall grow!

"'Oh, the poor lame weaver—
How will he laugh outright
When he sees his dwindling flax-field
All full of flowers by night!'

"And then up spoke a brownie,
With a long beard on his chin:
'I have spun up all the tow,' said he,
'And I want some more to spin.

"'I've spun a piece of hempen cloth,
And I want to spin another—
A little sheet for Mary's bed,
And an apron for her mother!'



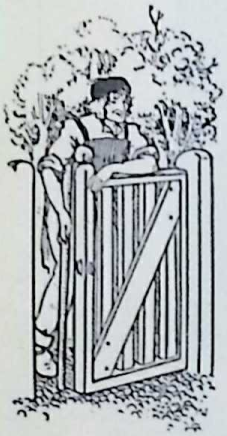
"How he will laugh!"

Koviloor Acadamy

"And with that I could not help but laugh,
And I laughed so loud and free;
And then on the top of the Caldon-Low
There was no one left but me.

"And all on the top of the Caldon-Low
The mists were cold and gray,
And nothing I saw but the mossy stones
That round about me lay.

"But as I came down from the hilltop,
I heard, afar below,
How busy the jolly miller was,
And how merry the wheel did go!



"And I peeped into the widow's field,
And, sure enough, were seen,
The yellow ears of the mildewed corn
All standing stiff and green!

"And down by the weaver's croft I stole
To see if the flax were high;
But I saw the weaver at his gate,
With the good news in his eye!

"Now, this is all that I heard, mother,
And all that I did see;
So, prithee, make my bed, mother,
For I'm tired as I can be."

MARY HOWITT.

Koviloor Acadamy

QUEEN MAB AND OBERON.

I.

The palace of the fairies hangs halfway between earth and sky; and though it is as light as a butterfly's wing, no wind or storm can harm it. A golden path leads downward from the gateway to the earth below.

The walls of the palace are made of thistle-down, closely packed together, and the windows of shining dew-drops; while the roof is covered with gossamer, silvered over with moonshine.

Here live the king of the fairies, whose name is Oberon, and his wife, who is called Queen Mab; and with them live a crowd of fairies more in number than the sands of the sea.

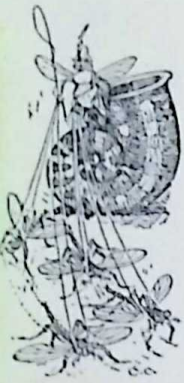
Now at one time the king and queen of the fairies had a sad quarrel, which arose in this way.

There was among the king's attendants a fairy knight named Pigwiggin, who hated King Oberon and wished to share the fairy throne with Queen Mab.

Koviloor Acadamy

He thought that he had as much right as Oberon to be king of the fairy realm.

One day he sent to the queen a beautiful bracelet made of cowslip spots;* and with it he sent also a letter in which he begged the queen to meet him in a cowslip bower on a hill well known to all the fairies.



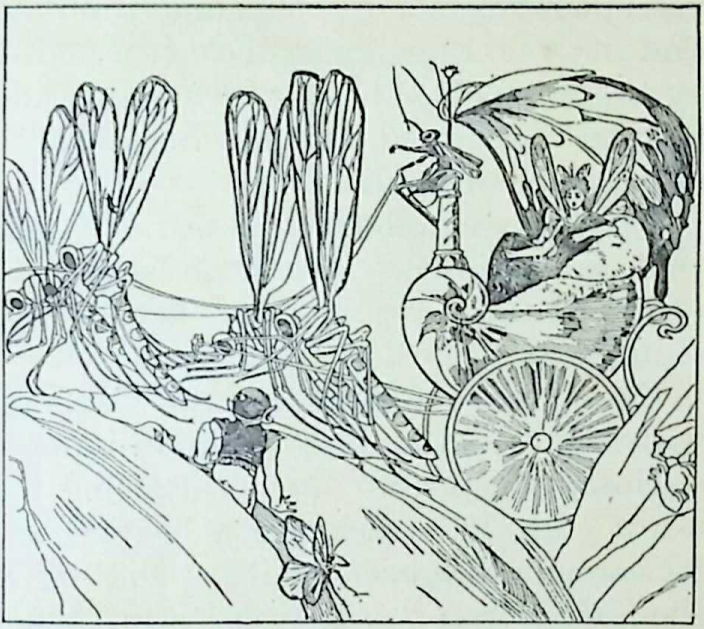
The queen, full of the spirit of fun, at once gave orders for her coach to be got ready. The horses were four nimble gnats, with harness made from the web of a spider. The driver was a tiny fly. The coach was made from the shell of a snail; the seat was the soft down of a bee; and the cover was like the wing of a lovely butterfly.

The queen stepped into her coach without waiting for her maids. But when they knew that Mab was gone, they at once got upon the back of a grasshopper and made all haste after her.

Now we must leave the queen and her maids for a while and see what King Oberon was doing.

* "Those be rubies, fairy favours."—*Shakespeare.*

Koviloor Acadamy



II.

The king became as wild as a March hare when he found that his queen had left him. He rent his clothes and tore his golden locks. Then, finding an acorn cup, he picked it up by the stalk and whirled it fiercely round his head. Passing through the wood, he laid about him madly, striking down all that came in his path.

Koviloor Acadamy

At last he met a wasp, and thinking that it was Pigwiggin, took it roughly by the waist. "Where is my queen, thou traitor?" he cried. "Give her back to me, or thou shalt die."

The poor wasp shook with fear. "Great Oberon," it cried, "I am no knight of thine. I am a wasp. See, here is my sting."

Upon this the king let the wasp go with haste, and looking around him saw a glowworm not far away. Raising his acorn club, he struck her a heavy blow for carrying fire in her tail. "Oh!" cried the glowworm, "spare me, great king, spare me!" Then she rolled herself into a ball, and tumbled backward into a hole.

The angry king now ran into a hive and laid about him with his club. Down came the combs upon his head. With their wax his face was smeared, and the honey almost smothered him. So he ran out in a rage, and mounted on the back of an ant, which he drove at great speed along the ground.

Koviloor Acadamy

So quickly went the ant that at last it tripped and tumbled into a hole. The king went over its head, and the two rolled together in the dirt.

Oberon started up in a greater rage than ever. Half blinded with honey and dirt, he ran against a mole-hill, which he took to be a mountain.

Up one side he ran and down the other into a pond which lay at the foot. The cold water brought him to his senses, and using an acorn cup as a boat he crossed to the other side.

There he met the fairy Puck, whom some call Hob-goblin and others Will-o'-the-Wisp. At once he fell upon him in a fury. "Oh, oh!" cried Puck. "Hold! hold! my king! Who dressed you in this manner? Where have you been? What can I do to serve you? Oh! help, help!"

"Dear Puck," said the king in a milder tone, "my queen is gone. Leave all else alone and set out at once to find her. Bring her to me, alive or dead, or bring the head of Pigwiggin, and I will ever be your friend."

Koviloor Acadamy

"My king," cried Puck, "I will go through thick and thin to serve you--

"Through brake, through brier,
Through dirt, through mire,
Through water, through fire;
And thus Puck goes about it."

III.

The words of Puck were overheard by a dainty little fay who hid behind a nettle. Her name was Nymph, and she served the fairy queen. At once she knew that her mistress was in danger, and made up her mind to warn her in due time.

Meanwhile Pigwiggin, the queen, and her maids had met, and were having a merry time together. They danced upon the green to the music made by a humble-bee, and their happy laughter was like the sound of tiny silver bells.

As they were making merry, Nymph came up in great haste. "My queen," she cried, "danger is nigh. The king has sent out Puck to seek you in all the fields and the shady places of the wood.

Koviloor Acadamy

The Battle between Oberon and Pigwiggin.

(*See p. 40.*)

Koviloor Acadamy

If he finds you here great will be his anger."

At once the merry meeting was broken up. The fairies flew this way and that, like chaff before the wind. But some of the maids stayed near their mistress; and one of them looking about her spied an empty nut-shell.

"Dear queen," she cried, "here is a place of safety which will hold us all. Let us creep in and go to sleep. We shall be as safe as if we were in a strong castle." This they did, and soon the queen and her maids were wrapped in silent slumber.

Nymph, however, did not sleep. She knew that her mistress was not yet safe from the sharp eyes of Puck. So she made up her mind to use her magic powers upon him, and lay traps to catch him.

Having done so, she hid herself and waited for his coming. By-and-by he came along, with his sharp eyes glancing this way and that. But when he drew near the place where Nymph was hidden,

Koviloor Acadamy

he felt a fierce pain in his head, and stumbled against the root of a tree. Down he came with a crash, and his heels flew up into the air.

He sprang up in a great rage, and set forward again. But in a moment he tripped once more and fell among the briers. His rage grew greater, but this only made him less able to see his way; and before long he walked into a muddy ditch, where he stood up to the chin.

Loud rose his cries upon the air, and Queen Mab awoke, thinking that the angry king had found her. But in a moment Nymph stood by her; and when the little fay had told her story, the pair rocked to and fro with merry laughter.

IV.

Meanwhile Pigwiggin went through the wood meaning to fight with the king if he could find him. He was now fully armed and ready for battle to the death.

A little cockle-shell served him for a shield. His spear was a blade of grass almost two inches long, with the tongue

Koviloor Acadamy

of a horse-fly tied upon the point. His coat was made of the scales of a fish ; his dagger was a hornet's sting ; his helmet was a beetle's head, with a horse's hair for a plume.

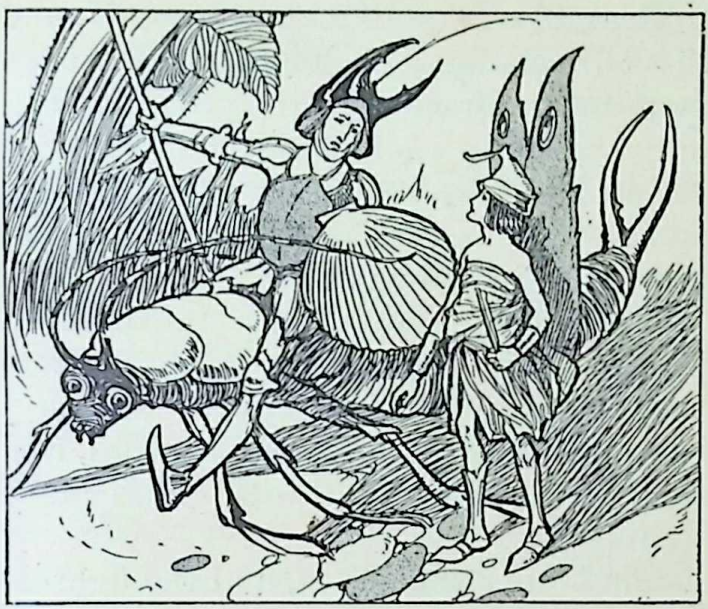
He had caught an earwig, which served him for a steed. It was not easy to mount upon such a charger, for it was very full of spirit. But at last he was seated and ready for his foe.

Before long he met with a fairy knight named Tomalin. "Go, tell the king," he cried, "that I am longing for battle. If I have my will he shall no longer wear the fairy crown."

Tomalin went off post haste and told Oberon what he had seen and heard. "Bring me arms and a steed," cried the king in a fury. "I will ride out to meet my foe."

Soon the news came to Queen Mab, who began to be a little sorry that in a fit of merry sport she had brought things to such a pass. So she set out with her maids to ask the queen of the under-world to put an end to the quarrel.

Koviloor Acadamy



The way lay through a deep valley full of fogs and mists and bog-land; and on this journey we must leave her for a while to watch the fight between Pigwiggin and the king.

V.

The king had Tomalin as his attendant, while the fairy knight Tom Thumb waited upon Pigwiggin. Soon all was ready for the signal of battle.

Koviloor Acadamy

Then Tom Thumb gave the signal, and the two charged each other with such fury that both came to the ground. But in a moment each was mounted once more, and with a crash they came together again. It was not easy to tell which had the better in the fight.

Both their shields were broken into pieces, their helmets were torn from their heads, and their lances were useless. But each now drew his sword, and the fight began afresh, with greater fury than before.

Loud rang the blows, and the fighters were almost choked with dust. It seemed as if the battle would not cease until both were laid low upon the ground. But just at that moment a dense mist wrapped them round, and for a while hid them from each other.

As the mist began to melt away a tiny voice was heard like the sound of a silver bell. "Peace," it said—"peace and friendship. He who strikes another blow does so at his peril."

Then the air became clear once more.

Koviloor Acadamy

And Oberon saw Queen Mab standing near a stranger lady who looked like a queen, as indeed she was—the queen of the under-world.

The newcomer held out a cup made of a blue-bell flower. "Drink this water," she said to the two who had tried to kill each other. "It will blot out all cause of trouble between you."

The fighters at once did as they were told. As soon as the king had placed the cup to his lips he forgot all that had lately happened; and turning to his queen he asked her gently what had brought her to that place.

Pigwiggin, too, forgot all about the queen's visit to him, and the fight which had almost ended in death.

So with many a merry laugh they all set out for the king's palace. And once again there was peace and joy in the halls of Fairyland.

Koviloor Acadamy

THE FAIRY QUEEN.

Come, follow, follow me,
You fairy elves that be,
Which circle on the green;
Come, follow Mab your queen.
Hand in hand let's dance around,
For this place is fairy ground.

When mortals are at rest,
And sleeping in their nest,
Unheard and unespied
Through keyholes we do glide;
Over tables, stools, and shelves,
We trip it with our fairy elves.

And if the house be foul
With plates, dish, or bowl,
Upstairs we nimbly creep,
And find the maids asleep:
There we pinch their cheeks and noses
Not one escapes, or knows us.

But if the house be swept,
And from uncleanness kept,
We praise the household maid,
And duly she is paid;
For we use before we go
To drop a sixpence in her shoe.

Koviloor Acadamy

Upon a mushroom's head
Our table-cloth we spread;
A grain of rye or wheat
Is fine bread, which we eat;
Pearly drops of dew we drink,
In acorn cups filled to the brink.

The grasshopper, gnat, and fly,
Serve for our minstrelsy.
This done, we dance a while,
And so the time beguile;
And if the moon doth hide her head
The glowworm lights us home to bed.

On tops of dewy grass
So nimbly do we pass,
The young and tender stalk
Ne'er bends when we do walk;
Yet in the morning may be seen
Where we the night before have been.

Old Song.

THE NIGHT-PIECE.

Her eyes the glowworm lend thee,
The shooting stars attend thee;
And the elves also,
Whose little eyes glow
Like the sparks of fire, befriend thee.

Koviloor Acadamy

No Will-o'-the-wisp mislight thee,
Nor snake or slow-worm bite thee;
But on, on thy way,
Not making a stay,
Since ghost there's none to affright thee.

Let not the dark thee cumber;
What though the moon does slumber?
The stars of the night
Will lend thee their light,
Like tapers clear, without number.

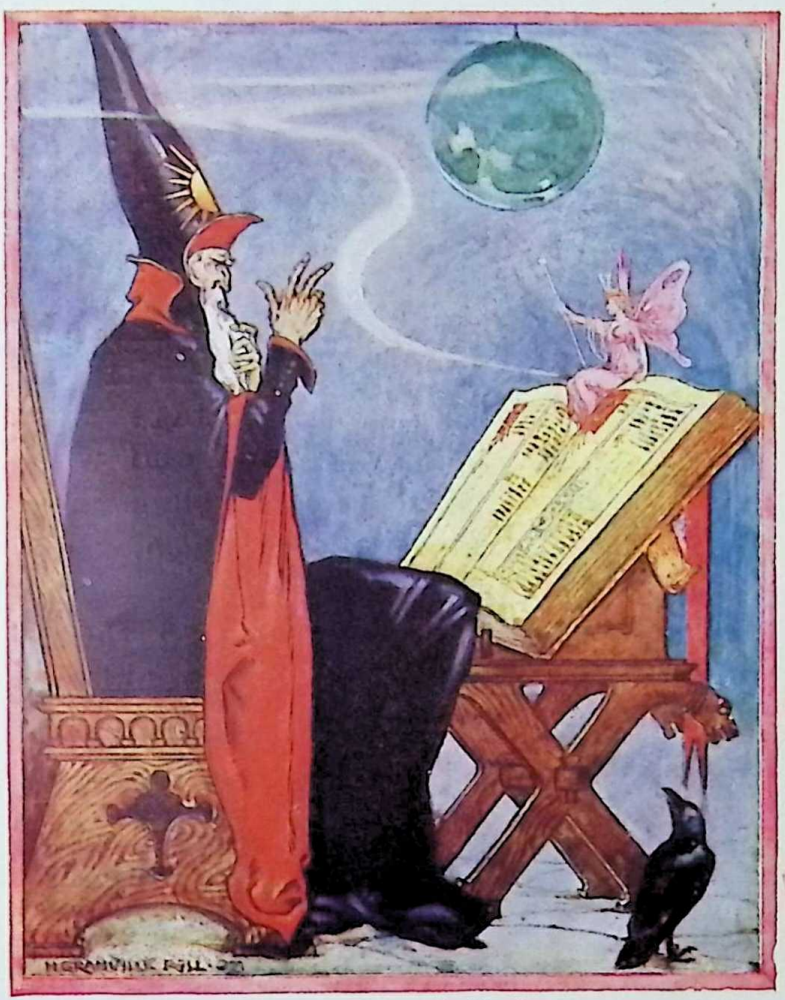
R. Herrick.

THE MERRY TRICKS OF TOM THUMB.

I.

Long, long ago, in the time of the good King Arthur, there lived a very wise man called Merlin. He was the most skilful enchanter in the world at that time.

This famous wizard was able to take upon himself the form of any man he chose. Dressed like a beggar, he was one day travelling along a country road. Feeling very tired, he stopped at a way-



Queen Mab and Merlin.

Koviloor Acadamy

side cottage to ask for some bread and a drink of milk.

The owner of the cottage, who was a ploughman, gave him a hearty welcome; and the good-wife brought the sage fresh milk in a wooden bowl, and some new brown bread on a platter.

The wizard was greatly pleased with the meal and with the kindness of his hosts. But though the cottage was clean and tidy, and husband and wife seemed very healthy, it was plain that they were not so happy as such good people ought to have been.

Merlin put many questions to them, and they told him that they would be much happier if they had a child to love and take care of. If only she had a son, the woman said, even if the child were no bigger than a man's thumb, she would be one of the happiest women in the whole world.

Merlin soon afterwards left the cottage, after thanking the worthy couple for their kindness. As he walked along he began to smile at the idea of a boy no

Koviloor Acadamy

bigger than a man's thumb. Then he went to the fairy queen and told her of the poor woman's wish.

Queen Mab was also much amused at the thought, and she promised Merlin to send the ploughman's wife a boy no bigger than her husband's thumb. This she did; and when the child lay in its tiny cradle she paid a visit to the ploughman's cottage, and left behind some clothing for the little fellow.

There was an oak leaf to serve for a hat, a tiny shirt made of a spider's web, and a jacket woven of thistle-down. There was also a pair of shoes, made from a mouse's skin, tanned with the downy hair inside.

II.

The years went by, yet Tom Thumb, as the child had been named by Queen Mab, did not grow any bigger than his father's thumb. But as he grew older he became very cunning and full of tricks of all kinds.

He would play with the boys at a game of cherry stones; and when he had lost

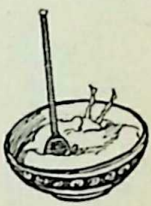
Out stepped Tom.

Koviloor Acadamy

all his own he would creep into the wallets of his playmates and steal some of theirs. One day a certain boy found him doing this, and dragged him out.

"Aha!" he cried, "I have caught you at last, and you shall have your reward." Then he put Tom back into the wallet, and drawing the string tight gave it a hearty shake. Tom was badly bruised with the cherry stones, and quite dazed. He cried out with pain, and was now ready to promise never to play this trick any more.

Not long afterwards his mother was making a pudding. Tom, wishing to see how it was made, climbed up to the edge of the bowl; and he fell heels over head into the pudding, unseen by his mother. Soon he was wrapped up in the pudding-cloth, and put into the pot to boil!



The flour had filled the boy's mouth, so that he could not cry out. But when he felt the hot water he kicked and struggled so much that his mother thought the fairies had got into the pudding. So she took it out of the pan and flung it down near the cottage door.

Koviloor Acadamy

A poor man who was passing at the moment lifted up the pudding, put it into his bag, and walked away with it. Tom had now got the flour out of his mouth, and set up a dismal cry. This filled the man with such fear that he flung down the pudding and ran off.

The pudding-cloth was torn open with the fall, and Tom crept out, covered with batter. He made his way home with great trouble, and his mother washed him in a teacup, kissed him, and put him to bed.

III.

Soon after this Tom's mother took the boy with her to milk the cow. The wind was very strong, and she was afraid he would be blown away; so she tied him to a thistle with a piece of fine thread.

The cow soon saw his oak-leaf hat, and having a taste for oak leaves, took poor Tom and the thistle at a mouthful. Soon the little fellow was dancing about within the cow's mouth, doing his best to avoid her teeth, and crying at the top of his voice, "Mother! mother!"

Koviloor Acadamy

"Where are you, my child?" cried the ploughman's wife in great distress.

"Here, mother, here!" came the reply from the red cow's mouth.

The poor woman began to cry and wring her hands; but the cow, feeling something unusual in her mouth, opened it and let Tom drop out. His mother caught him in her apron, and wrapping him up, ran home with him as fast as she could.

Not long afterwards Tom's father made him a whip of barley straw with which to drive the cattle. Walking about in the fields one day, the little fellow slipped his foot and rolled into a furrow. A raven flying overhead saw him, picked him up, and carried him to the top of a giant's castle which stood by the seashore.

Tom was now in a state of great fear, and did not know what to do. After a while Grumbo, the giant, came out to walk on the terrace. Soon he caught sight of Tom, and picking him up he looked at him severely.

But Tom kicked so hard that the giant threw him out into the sea. A large fish

Koviloor Acadamy

caught him and swallowed him at once. At the same moment by came a boat in which sat a fisherman who had been sent to catch fish for King Arthur's table.

He hooked the fish that had swallowed poor Tom, and it was taken to the cook, who cut it open. Out stepped the little fellow, as blithe as ever; and great was the surprise of the cook and all the maids of the kitchen.

Tom was soon taken to the king, who was greatly pleased with him, and made him his dwarf. In time he became a great favourite at court, and amused the king and queen by his tricks and gambols.

When the king rode out on horseback he often took Tom with him. And whenever a shower came on, the little fellow always crept into the king's breast-pocket, where he slept till the rain was over.

IV.

One day King Arthur asked Tom about his parents. He wished to know whether they were as small as their son, and how they made a living.

Koviloor Acadamy

Tom said that his father and mother were quite as tall as other people, and that they were very poor.

On hearing this, the king took Tom to his treasury, where all his money and jewels were kept. Then he told him he might have as much money as he could carry home to his parents. Tom ran off at once to get a little purse, and was given a threepenny piece to put into it!

This was all that he could carry; in fact, the little fellow found it was no easy matter to get it upon his back. Then he set out for his father's house, but he had to rest more than a hundred times by the way. After two days and two nights of weary travel he reached his home in safety.

His mother ran out to meet him, and carried him into the house. He was glad to get home, but he was greatly tired with his journey. So his mother placed him in a walnut shell by the fireside, and feasted him for three days on a hazel nut. But this made him ill, for a whole nut used to serve him for a month.

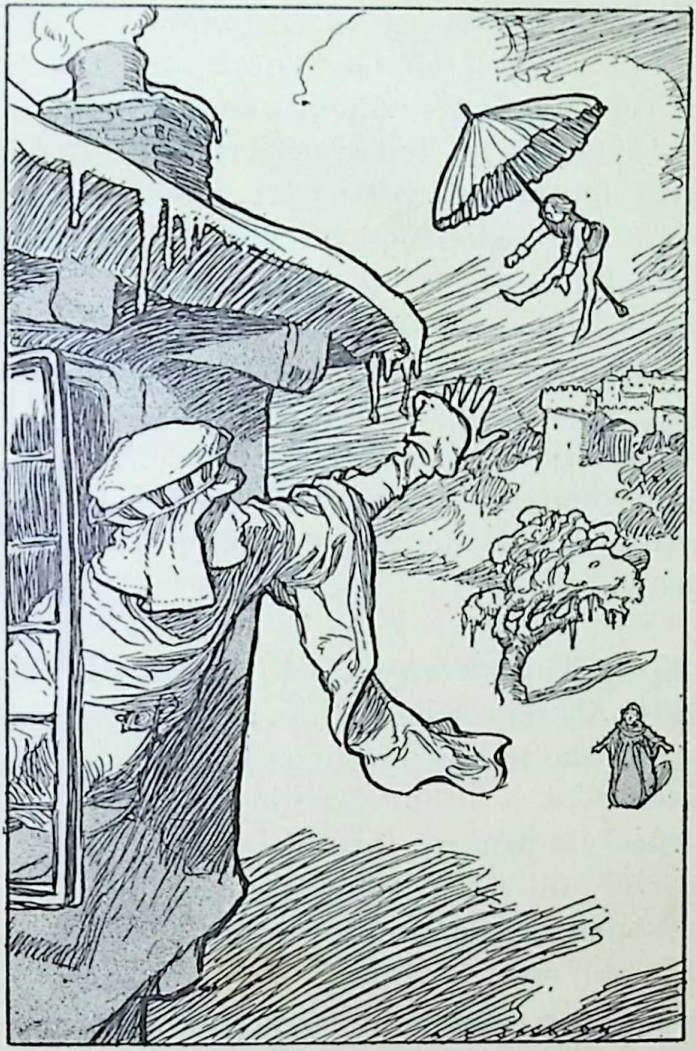
Koviloor Acadamy

Tom soon got well again; but as the weather was very bad, he could not set out for King Arthur's palace. So his mother made a little parasol of paper, and tied Tom to the handle. Then she gave him a puff into the air with her mouth, and the wind soon carried him to the castle of the king.

Arthur, the queen, and all the knights who sat at the king's Round Table, were very glad to see Tom again. And the little fellow went through many fine tricks to please them—so many, indeed, that he grew very weary, and seemed like to die.

Then the queen of the fairies, hearing that he was ill, came to the palace in a coach drawn by flying mice; and placing Tom by her side, she drove him through the air till she came to her own home. Here he rested, and was so well fed and tended by the queen's maidens that he soon became quite well again. Then the fairy queen sent him back to King Arthur's palace in this way.

She caused a light breeze to arise, upon



The wind carried him away.

Koviloor Acadamy

which she placed Tom. He floated upon it like a cork on the water, and so was carried in a few moments to the palace.

Just as he floated over the courtyard the cook happened to be taking to the king a great bowl of spiced wine. Into this Tom fell with a splash, and spilt a great deal of the wine over the cook's jacket.

The cook was very angry, and told the king that Tom had jumped into the bowl out of mischief. King Arthur was angry too when he heard this, and he gave orders to his men to cut off poor Tom's head.

V.

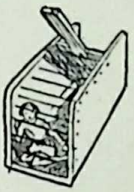
Tom Thumb was now in great fear, and did not know what to do. As he walked about the palace kitchen he saw a miller sitting at a table yawning. With one bound he jumped into his mouth.

The miller was so angry with him that he opened the window and threw him into the river. A large salmon snapped him up in a moment. Then a fisherman caught the salmon, and sold it to a knight, who sent it as a present to King

Koviloor Acadamy

Arthur. The cook found Tom as before, and took him to the king.

But His Majesty was very busy at the moment, and gave orders for Tom to be kept in prison until he wanted him.



The cook now put him into a mouse-trap, and left him to spend his time peeping through the wires. After a week had passed Tom was sent for by the king, who not only forgave him for what he had not done, but made him a knight. He was now to be known as Sir Thomas Thumb.

The king ordered a new suit of clothes to be prepared for him. His shirt was made of a butterfly's wings, his boots of chicken skin. Then a lovely mouse was fitted with a saddle for the new knight to take his rides abroad.

One day Tom was riding by a farm-house when a large cat saw him, made a spring, and seized both him and his steed. She then ran up a tree with them; but Tom drew his sword, and set upon her so fiercely that she let them both fall. One of the king's nobles who was

Koviloor Acadamy

passing caught Tom in his hat and took him home at once to the royal palace.

Not long afterwards the fairy queen took Tom off to Fairyland, where he stayed for some years. During that time King Arthur and his chief nobles died. Tom now wished to go once more to court, so the fairy queen sent him as before. The new king was named Thunstone, and he and all his knights flocked to see the little man.

King Thunstone asked who he was and whence he came, and Tom Thumb said,—

"My name is Tom Thumb,
From the fairies I've come.
When King Arthur lived,
This court was my home.
In me he delighted,
By him I was knighted.
Did you never hear of Sir Thomas Thumb?"

The new king was so much pleased with the little knight that he ordered a small chair to be made, in which Tom could sit on the dinner-table; also a palace of gold, about nine inches high, with a door an inch and a half wide, for him to live in.

Koviloor Acadamy

VI.

Now the new queen grew very angry when she saw the favour that was shown to Tom Thumb. So she told the king that the little knight had been very rude to her. This was not true, and Tom knew it was only a made-up story.

But when the king sent for him he was so much afraid that he hid himself in an empty snail-shell. There he lay for some time, till he was nearly dead with hunger.

At last he peeped out. Seeing a fine large butterfly near him, he placed himself astride of it, and was at once carried up into the air. The butterfly flew from bush to bush and from field to field. At last it came to the palace garden, where the king and queen spent a merry time in trying to catch it. Then, alas! poor Sir Thomas fell from his seat into a watering-pot, in which he was almost drowned.

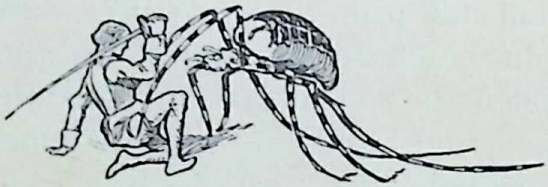
When the queen saw him she flew into a great rage, and said that he should be at once beheaded; and he was again put

Koviloor Acadamy

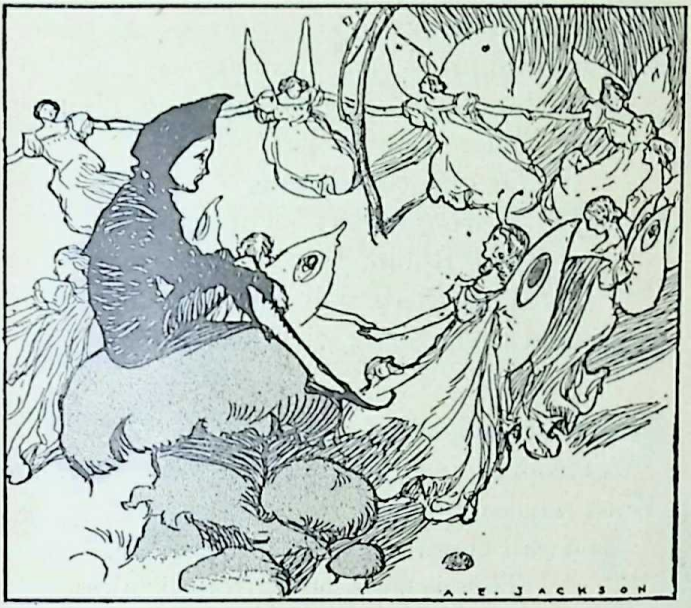
into a mouse-trap, to wait until the time came for putting him to death. But the cat, seeing something alive in the trap, rolled it about until the wires broke, and so set Tom free once more.

The king now took him again into favour; but the adventures of Sir Thomas Thumb were now almost at an end. One day he was sitting in the palace garden when a huge spider made an attack upon him. Sir Thomas drew his sword and fought like a hero. But the spider was the victor, and soon the brave little knight lay dead upon the ground.

The king, his knights, and even the queen were very sorry at his death. A white marble stone was raised over his grave, on which was written the story of his life, so that all should know the wonder of it.



Koviloor Acadamy



ROBIN GOOD-FELLOW.

From Oberon, in Fairyland,
The king of elves and shadows there,
Good Robin, I, at his command,
Am sent to view the night-sports here.
What revel rout
Is kept about
In every corner where I go,
I will o'ersee
And merry be,
And make good sport with ho! ho! ho!

Koviloor Acadamy

More swift than lightning can I fly
About this airy welkin soon,
And in a minute's space can spy
Each thing that's done below the moon.
There's not a hag
Or ghost shall brag,
Or cry "'Ware goblins!" where I go,
But Robin, I
Their feats will spy,
And send them home with ho! ho! ho!

Whene'er such wanderers I meet,
As from their night-sports they trudge home
With mocking tiny voice I greet
And call them on, with me to roam
Through woods, through lakes,
Through bogs, through brakes;
Or else, unseen, with them I go,
Ready and quick,
To play some trick
And frolic it with ho! ho! ho!

Sometimes I meet them like a man;
Sometimes an ox, sometimes a hound;
And to a horse I turn me can,
To trip and troll about them round.
But if to ride
My back they stride,

Koviloor Acadamy

More swift than wind away I go;
O'er hedge and land,
Through pool and pond,
I scurry, laughing, Ho! ho! ho!

Yet now and then, the maids to please,
At midnight I card up their wool;
And while they sleep and take their ease,
With wheel to threads their flax I pull.
I grind at mill
Their malt up still;
I dress their hemp, I spin their tow.
If any wake,
And would me take,
I scurry, laughing, Ho! ho! ho!

When men do traps and engines set
In loopholes, where the foxes creep,
Who from their folds and houses get
Their ducks and geese, and lambs and sheep,
I spy the gin,
And enter in,
And seem a sly fox taken so;
But when they there
Approach me near,
I leap out, laughing, Ho! ho! ho!

Koviloor Acadamy

From wise old Merlin's time have I
Thus nightly frolicked to and fro;
And for my pranks men call me by
The name of Robin Good-fellow.
Elves, ghosts, and sprites
Who haunt the nights,
Witches and goblins do me know;
And wise dames old
My feats have told;
So farewell to you—ho! ho! ho!

Old Song.

Koviloor Acadamy

SHEMUS AND THE LITTLE PEOPLE.

I.

Shemus was a poor Irish lad who lived with his mother in a cabin on a hill. Mother and son were very poor and needy.

They had a small plot of land, on which they grew potatoes, and a little cow that gave them what milk they needed. Shemus was a handy lad, and while tending the cow in the pasture he used to cut the dry heath, from which he made brooms.

These his mother would take to the market town not far away; and when she had sold them, she would buy meal and a few other things that people need from day to day.

One day Shemus went farther than usual up the mountain-side looking for long heath, for his mother had told him that the people in the town liked those brooms best which had long heads; and it was easy to see the reason for that.

Koviloor Acadamy

The little cow kept close on the heels of Shemus and did not need much tending. After some time the lad came to a fine patch of heath. But before beginning to cut it, he thought he would lie down and take a rest, for the path had been steep and the sun was at its height.

He had not lain there long before he saw troops of fairies dancing about the place. Some of them were playing a game with stones, some were kicking a football, while others were playing at hop-step-and-jump.

They were so quick and active that Shemus took great delight in watching them; and he admired most a little, dark-faced fellow in a red cap, who rolled the other players over like ninepins.

At one time this little player kept the ball to himself for quite a long time; and Shemus was so pleased at his clever playing that he called out, "Well done, Red Cap!"

As soon as he had spoken, the ball struck him in the eye; and it seemed to Shemus that he could see the million

He saw troops of fairies.

Koviloor Acadamy

stars of night. He rubbed his eyes with all his might, and after a while was able to look about him. Then he saw the sun, the sky, the hill, and the patch of heath; but neither the fairies nor the cow could be seen anywhere.

He looked all round about, but in no place could he find the little cow. It seemed, indeed, as if the fairies had taken her away with them. But Shemus did not think so.

II.

Away ran the lad home to his mother.

"Where is the cow, Shemus?" asked she.

"Why, mother dear," said the lad. "I'm sure I cannot tell."

"Is that an answer to give your mother?" asked the woman.

"Oh, the cow is safe enough somewhere," said Shemus. "But how could I look after her when I had no eyes at all?"

"What was the matter with your eyes?" asked the mother in a gentler voice.

"Oh, didn't the fairy players drive

Koviloor Acadamy

their ball into one of them and make me stone-blind for a long time?"

"And perhaps the little people took our cow too?" said the woman.

"Never fear," said Shemus. "Our little cow is too clever to be led away from such grass as I found for her right up the hill."

In this way the two talked about the cow until it was too late to go and look for her; but as soon as morning had dawned they set out for the mountain-side. They searched high and low, until at last Shemus saw the cow's horns sticking out of a bog-hole.

"O mother, mother," cried the lad, "here she is!"

"Where, darling?" asked the old woman.

"In the bog-hole," said Shemus.

Upon this his mother set up such a wail that all the people from the village came up the mountain-side to see what was the matter; and before long they had pulled the cow out of the bog-hole.

Shemus and his mother took her home,

Koviloor Acadamy

cut off the skin, and hung up the meat in the kitchen. They had lost the milk indeed, but they would at least have a dinner of meat for many a day.

But when dinner-time came they found that they could not eat any of the meat. When it was boiled it was as black as coal and as tough as leather. You would as soon have thought of trying to eat a log of black oak. At last they were forced to throw it out; but even the dogs would not look at it, and the meat had to be thrown into the river.

III.

The loss of the cow cost poor Shemus many a tear, for he was now forced to work twice as hard as before, and to go out cutting heath from early morning until late in the evening.

One day he was coming down the mountain-side with a load of brooms on his back. Feeling very tired, he sat down to rest. All at once he saw the little cow not far away from him with two tiny men minding her.

Koviloor Acadamy

"That's my mother's cow!" he cried out at once.

"No, it isn't," said one of the herders.

"Yes, it is," said Shemus, throwing down his bundle and taking the animal by the horns.

Then the two little men drove the cow to the edge of a steep rock which overhung a broad lough; and in a few moments she fell over with Shemus hanging on to her horns.

They made a great splash in the water below and soon were lost to sight. Shemus thought, of course, that his last moment had now come; but when he turned upright again, he found himself before a lovely palace, with walls of shining stones set with jewels.

From the gateway came some little men, who bowed low before him and invited him within the palace. But Shemus all the while was holding fast to the horns of the little cow, and would not let go.

Then the gate of the palace flew open; and one who seemed to be the king of the

Koviloor Acadamy

fairies came out with a number of his servants about him.

"What does this boy want?" asked one of them.

"I want my mother's cow," said Shemus.

"That is not your mother's cow," said the fairy leader.

"But she is indeed," said Shemus. "Don't I know her as well as I know my own right hand?"

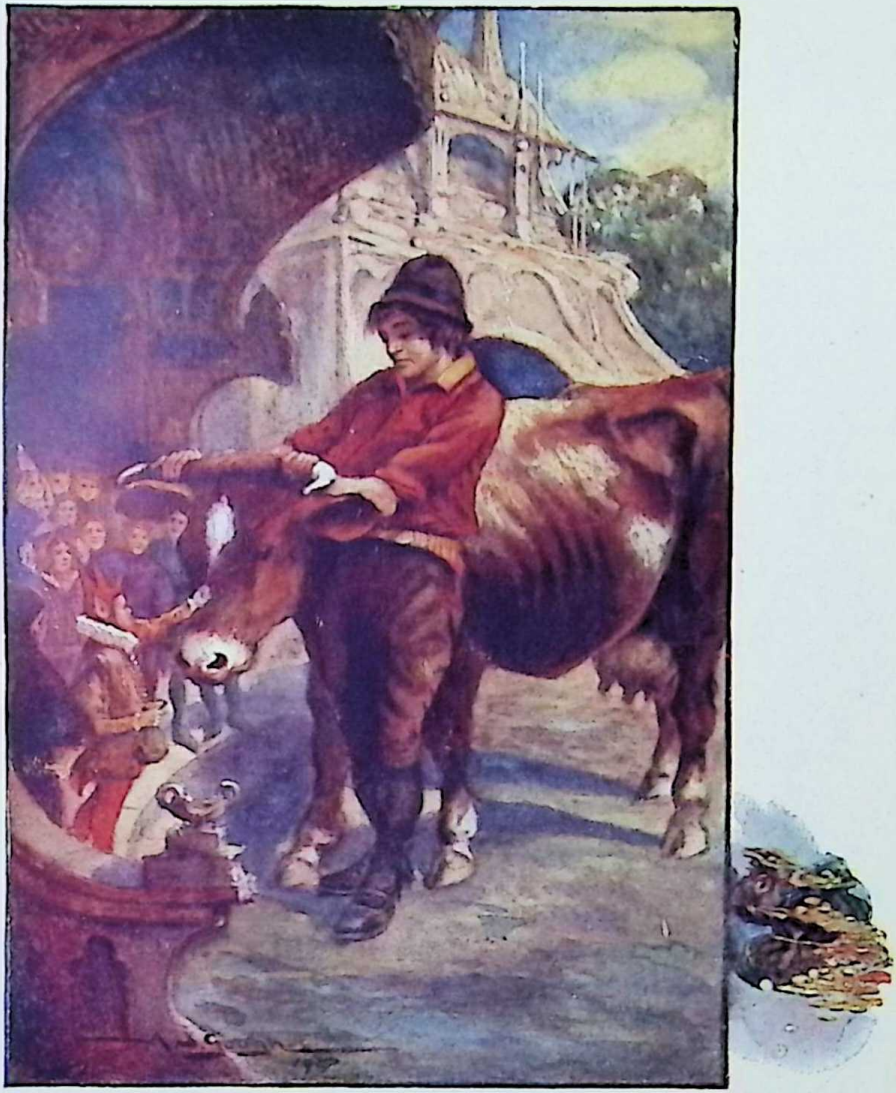
"Where did you lose her?" asked the leader. Then Shemus told him the whole story.

"I believe you are right," said the fairy prince, taking out his purse. "Here, I will give you enough money to buy twenty cows like her."

"No, no," said Shemus; "I am not so easily caught. I will have my mother's cow and nothing else."

"You are a strange fellow," said the fairy gentleman. "Stay here with us and live in a palace for the rest of your days."

"I would rather live with my mother," said Shemus.



"I want my mother's cow."

Koviloor Acadamy

"Foolish boy!" said the other. "Won't you stay with us and live in a palace?"

"I would rather live in my mother's hut."

"Here you can walk through gardens full of flowers and fruit."

"I would rather," said Shemus, "spend my days cutting heath on the mountain-side."

"Here you shall have the finest of food and the purest of water."

"Since I have got the cow back, we can have milk once more with the potatoes."

"My dear boy," said the fairy ladies, gathering round Shemus and his cow, "you would not be so unkind as to take away the only cow we have."

"But you see," said Shemus, rather more gently, "my mother wants milk, and she shall have it if it depends upon me."

Then they brought him bags full of gold, which they offered to him in payment for his cow. But he would have none of them. When, therefore, they

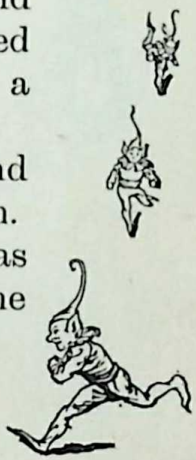
Koviloor Acadamy

saw he was so stubborn, they began to thump and beat him; but still he held fast by the horns, till a great wind arose and blew him out of the place.

In a moment he found himself and the cow standing by the side of the lake. The water was quite calm and still, and looked as if it had never been ruffled since the time of Adam—and that is a long time ago.

Well, Shemus drove home his cow, and his mother was very glad to see it again.

"Bless the beast!" she said; and as soon as the words passed her lips the cow faded away into thin air.



THE FAIRIES.

Up the airy mountain,
Down the rushy glen,
We daren't go a-hunting
For fear of little men;
Wee folk, good folk,
Trooping all together;
Green jacket, red cap,
And white owl's feather!

Koviloor Acadamy

Down along the rocky shore
Some make their home—
They live on crispy pancakes
Of yellow tide-foam;
Some in the reeds
Of the black mountain lake,
With frogs for their watch-dogs,
All night awake.

High on the hilltop
The old king sits;
He is now so old and gray
He's nigh lost his wits.
With a bridge of white mist
Columbkill he crosses,
On his stately journeys
From Slieveleague to Rosses;
Or going up with music
On cold starry nights,
To sup with the queen
Of the gay Northern Lights.

By the craggy hillside,
Through the mosses bare,
They have planted thorn trees
For pleasure here and there.
Is any man so daring
As dig them up in spite?
He shall find their sharpest thorns
In his bed at night.

Koviloor Acadamy

Up the airy mountain,
Down the rushy glen,
We daren't go a-hunting
For fear of little men;
Wee folk, good folk,
Trooping all together;
Green jacket, red cap,
And white owl's feather!

W. ALLINGHAM.

FAIRY MUSIC

I.

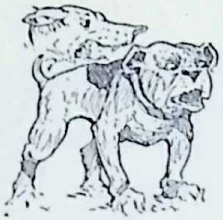
WHERE the bee sucks, there suck I:
In a cowslip's bell I lie;
There I couch when owls do cry.
On the bat's back I do fly
After summer merrily.
Merrily, merrily, shall I live now
Under the blossom that hangs on the bough!

II.

Come unto these yellow sands,
And then take hands:
Curtsied when you have, and kist
The wild waves whist,

Koviloor Acadamy

Foot it featly here and there;
And, sweet sprites, the burthen bear.
Hark, hark!
Bow-wow!
The watch-dogs bark:
Bow-wow!



III.

Over hill, over dale,
Thorough bush, thorough brier,
Over park, over pale,
Thorough flood, thorough fire,
I do wander everywhere,
Swifter than the moon's sphere;
And I serve the fairy queen,
To dew her orbs upon the green.
The cowslips tall her pensioners be:
In their gold coats spots you see;
Those be rubies, fairy favours,
In those freckles live their savours:
I must go seek some dewdrops here,
And hang a pearl in every cowslip's ear.

Koviloor Acadamy

IV.

You spotted snakes with double tongue,
  Thorny hedgehogs, be not seen;
Newts and blind-worms, do no wrong,
  Come not near our fairy queen.

  Philomel, with melody
  Sing in our sweet lullaby;
Lulla, lulla, lullaby, lulla, lulla, lullaby:
    Never harm,
    Nor spell, nor charm,
  Come our lovely lady nigh;
  So, good-night, with lullaby.

Weaving spiders, come not here;
  Hence, you long-legged spinners, hence!
Beetles black, approach not near;
  Worm nor snail, do no offence.

  Philomel, with melody
  Sing in our sweet lullaby;
Lulla, lulla, lullaby, lulla, lulla, lullaby:
    Never harm,
    Nor spell, nor charm,
  Come our lovely lady nigh;
  So, good-night, with lullaby.

W. SHAKESPEARE

Koviloor Acadamy

THE MERMAID'S CAP.

I.

It was a fine morning in early summer when Patrick O'Hara walked along the sand by the sea. He was enjoying the cool air, and feeling very much at his ease.

The glorious sun was slowly making its way higher and higher into the deep blue sky, and the mists in the valleys were rolling along and away as if they were being chased by the dancing sunbeams.

"'Tis a lovely morning, to be sure," said Pat aloud to himself. "But a man needs some one near him to help him to enjoy it. 'Tis very lonesome to be alone. Don't you think so?"

The question was put to a tall rock which rose out of the sand not far from the edge of the water. As he looked at it, Pat opened his mouth in surprise; for there, on the rock, sat a lovely young maiden combing her hair.

Pat knew at once that he had met with a mermaid, for he saw on the

Pat opened his mouth in surprise.

Koviloor Acadamy

ground, not far away, a little cap such as mermaids are said to wear; and he knew that if he could get hold of it the sea-maiden would not be able to make her escape into the water.

So he ran forward softly over the sand before the maiden caught sight of him, and, stooping, picked up the cap. When the mermaid saw him she looked at him for a few moments with a sad look in her eyes, and then began to weep bitterly.

Now Pat felt very sorry for her, and he said as kindly as he could,—

"Never mind, my dear; I will do you no harm. Tell me your name."

But the mermaid would not look up, and her tears fell faster than ever.

It seemed a long time to Pat before she ceased to cry and looked timidly up into his face. Then she said, in a gentle voice,—

"Monster, when will you begin to make your meal?"

"My meal!" said Pat in surprise. "What meal? Why, I've just had a good breakfast."

Koviloor Acadamy

"Your meal of me," said the mermaid, with a sob in her voice.

"Eat you!" cried Pat. "I'd as soon think of eating my own head."

"Then," said the mermaid, "what *will* you do with me?"

"Do with you!" cried Pat. "Why, I shall do nothing less than make you Mrs. O'Hara."

II.

"Give me a little time," said the mermaid, quite taken by surprise.

Then she tied up her hair with a strand of delicate seaweed, and put her comb into the folds of her robe, which looked as if it had been made from foam of the sea. Next she stooped down and placed her rosy lips close to the water which gently lapped the base of the rock.

Pat watched her in great wonder.

"What are you doing, my dear?" asked he.

"I am sending a message to my father," she said, "telling him that I shall not be home to dinner."

"Indeed!" said Pat, more surprised

Koviloor Acadamy

than ever. "And what is your father when he is at home, my dear?"

"Oh, he is King of the Ocean, to be sure," said the sea-maiden.

"Then you are no less than a princess?" said Pat.

"Just so," said she.

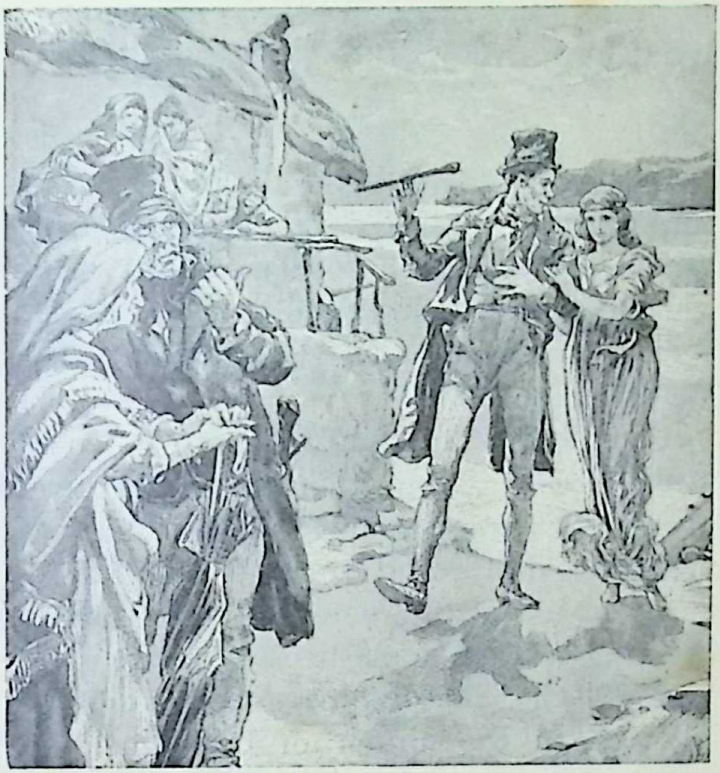
"And does your father own all the gold at the bottom of the sea?" he asked, thinking of all the lost treasure-ships of which he had heard and read.

"Gold!" said the maiden. "What is gold? Do you mean the gold of the sunset?"

"What is gold?" echoed Pat. "A very good thing when you want it, my dear. And I'm thinking that all the gold of the sunset, and the sunrise too, would not buy the furniture for our home that is to be. But I see you are as innocent as a child, and need a man's care all the more. Come, let us go home."

The people who lived near Pat were not very well pleased when he brought home his strange bride. But he told them that she was the daughter of a

Koviloor Acadamy



gentleman who owned all the gold at the bottom of the sea. Then they began to think that she was very beautiful, and that Pat might indeed have done worse for himself.

The very same day the two were married; and if Pat had been as careful as

Koviloor Acadamy

he was kind-hearted, they might have lived happily together until the end.

III.

As time went on, Pat and his wife had three children, and a happy home they made together. The eldest child was a girl, and the two others were boys; and you may be sure that Pat was very fond of them all.

One day he left his home to go to the town not far from the village where he lived. As soon as he was gone his wife made up her mind to give the house a good cleaning, for she was very fond of making things look bright and clean—indeed, the neighbours often said that she spent too much of her time with soap and water.

Well, she set to work, and began to clear away some lumber. She pulled down an old fishing-net, and found inside it the magic cap which she had worn before she met her husband that fine morning in the early summer-time.

She took it out of the cloth in which

Koviloor Acadamy

Pat had carefully wrapped it, and the sight of it made her think of her old home beneath the waves. She thought of her father on his throne of pearl; of her mother, the queen of the sea-fairies; and of all her brothers and sisters, who spent a merry life, and would never grow old, however long they lived.

Then she began to feel a great longing to go back to them, and find out how they were, and whether they had missed her. She sat down for a few moments to collect her thoughts, when her eyes fell upon her children.

"I cannot leave them," was her first thought. But the desire to go back to her old home was too strong for her. "I will come back again," she said to herself. "No one can blame me for wishing to go to see my father and mother."

Then she rose up and walked away from the cottage door. But she came back again to kiss the youngest child that lay in the cradle; and as she bent over it a tear dropped from her eye upon its rosy rounded cheek.

Koviloor Acadamy

Turning to the eldest child, she told her to look after her brothers and be a good girl till her mother came back. Then she went slowly down the beach towards the water.

The sea was as calm as glass, and across the surface she heard the sound of music sweeter than was ever heard on land. It seemed to speak straight to her heart, and invite her to come across the waves to her brothers and sisters. So, placing the cap upon her head, she plunged into the water.

When Pat came home, he was in great grief and distress to find that his wife was not in the cottage. He asked the neighbours whether they knew where she was; and at last one woman said that she had seen his wife walking on the shore with a kind of cap in her hand.

Then the poor fellow knew what had happened, and his heart sank within him. He knew also that it was of no use going to seek her, and that all he could do was to wait with patience until she came back again.

Koviloor Acadamy

But she never came back any more; and at last poor Pat made up his mind that she was gone for ever. "But," said he, "I'm certain 'tis her father, the King of the Ocean, who is keeping her away against her will. For she would not leave me if she had the chance to come back."

Koviloor Acadamy

THE FAIRY SHOEMAKER.

I.

Little cowboy, what have you heard,
Up on the lonely rath's green mound?
Only the plaintive yellow bird
Sighing in sultry fields around,
Chary, chary, chary, chee-ee?
Only the grasshopper and the bee?
"Tip-tap, rip-rap,
Tick-a-tack-too!
Scarlet leather sewn together,
This will make a shoe.
Left, right, pull it tight;
Summer days are warm;
Underground in winter,
Laughing at the storm!"
Lay your ear close to the hill.
Do you not catch the tiny clamour,
Busy click of an elfin hammer,
Voice of the Lepracaun singing shrill
As he merrily plies his trade?
He's a span
And a quarter in height.
Get him in sight, hold him tight,
And you're a made
Man!

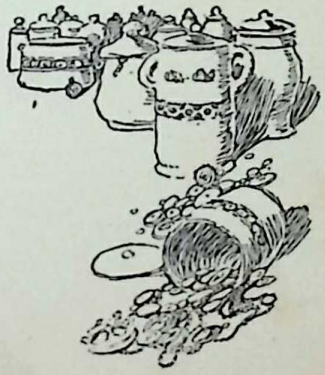
Koviloor Acadamy

II.

You watch your cattle the summer day,
Sup on potatoes, sleep in the hay ;
How would you like to roll in your carriage,
Look for a duchess's daughter in marriage ?
Seize the Shoemaker—then you may !

"Big boots a-hunting,
Sandals in the hall,
White for a wedding feast,
Pink for a ball.
This way, that way,
So we make a shoe ;
Getting rich every stitch,
Tick-tack-too !"

Nine-and-ninety treasure crocks
This keen miser-fairy hath,
Hid in mountains, woods, and rocks,
Ruin and round tower, cave and rath,
And where the cormorants build ;
From times of old
Guarded by him,
Each of them filled
Full to the brim
With gold !



The Fairy Shoemaker

Koviloor Acadamy

III.

I caught him at work one day myself,
In the castle ditch, where foxglove grows;
A wrinkled, wizened, and bearded elf,
Spectacles stuck on his pointed nose,
Silver buckles to his hose,
Leather apron, shoe in his lap.
"Rip-rap, tip-tap,
Tick-tack-too!
(A grasshopper on my cap!
Away the moth flew!)
Buskins for a fairy prince,
Brogues for his son;
Pay me well, pay me well,
When the job is done!"
The rogue was mine, beyond a doubt;
I stared at him, he stared at me.
"Servant, sir!" "Humph!" says he,
And pulled a snuff-box out.
He took a long pinch, looked better pleased,
The queer little Lepracaun;
Offered the box with a dainty grace—
Pouf! he flung the dust in my face!
And, while I sneezed,
Was gone!

W. ALLINGHAM.
(*By kind permission.*)

Koviloor Acadamy

THE HERDSMAN WHO WEDDED THE KING'S DAUGHTER.

I.

A poor old fisherman was one day plying his trade on a loch when a sea-maiden came up to the side of his boat and said, "Are you getting any fish?"

"No," said the old man sadly; "I am sorry to say I am not."

"What will you give me if I send fish to you?" asked the maiden.

"Ah!" replied the old man, "I have little to spare."

"Will you give me your son?" was the next question.

"I have no son," was the sad reply.

"What have you to give me then?"

"All I have in the world besides my wife are an old horse and an old dog."

"Well," said the sea-maiden, "go home, and when the first of your three sons that shall be born is three years of age bring him to me. Meanwhile, you shall find fish in plenty."

Koviloor Acadamy

After that the old man's nets filled rapidly; and when he reached home he told his wife what the sea-maiden had said to him.

In a short time a son was born to the old couple, as the sea-maiden had said. And each time that the old man went out he caught as many fish as he could carry home in his boat.

II.

At the end of three years the old man grew heavy-hearted. When the day came to meet the sea-maiden, he did not take his son with him upon the loch.

Soon she came to the side of the boat and said, "Where is your son?"

"I did not bring him," said the old man.

"Ah!" said the sea-maiden, "you shall have four more years to learn to part with him."

The old man went home with a thankful heart. And for the next four years he was prosperous in his fishing.

But at the end of the time sorrow

Koviloor Acadamy

came upon him again, and his wife could not guess what ailed him. Again he went to the fishing, but he left his son at home as before.

Once more the sea-maiden rose to the side of the boat and asked for the boy.

"I did not bring him," said the man.

"You shall have him for seven years more," said the sea-maiden. Then she sank out of sight beneath the waves.

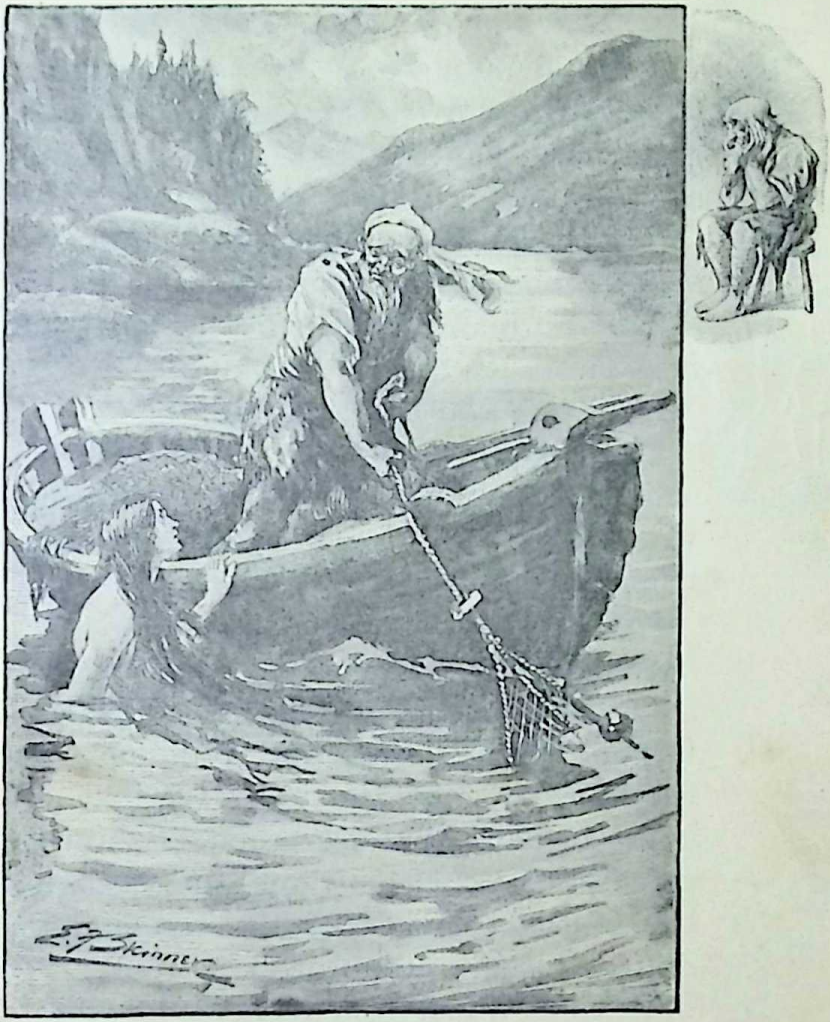
The old man went home full of joy. "I shall be dead before the time comes," he said to himself, "and we shall see the sea-maiden no more."

But at the end of the seven years the old man was still alive, and once again his heart was filled with woe. His son noticed his sad looks, and gently asked the old man what was the matter.

"Let me go with you to see the maiden," said the young fellow eagerly.

"No, no; you shall not," cried the old man, trembling.

"Then go to the smithy," said his son, "and get me a good strong sword, for I must go to seek my fortune."



The sea-maiden came to the side of the boat.

Koviloor Acadamy

III.

The old man went out and brought a heavy sword from the smithy. The lad gave it a shake or two, and it fell into a hundred splinters.

"Get me a stronger and a heavier sword," he said.

The old man did so, but the lad broke it in two with ease.

"Get me another," he said.

Back went the old man to the smithy, and brought away a sword of which the like had never been seen before.

"This will do," said the lad. "It is now time to set out on my way."

On the next morning he saddled his father's black horse and rode off with the black dog by his side. He had only gone a short distance when he saw the carcass of a sheep lying on the grass beside the road. Near it were a great dog, a falcon, and an otter.

Leaping down from his horse he divided the carcass amongst the three. He gave

Koviloor Acadamy

three shares to the dog, two to the otter, and one to the falcon.

"In return for this," said the dog, "if swiftness of foot or sharpness of tooth can at any time help you, remember me, and I will be at your side."

"In return for this," said the otter, "if swimming in the water can at any time help you, remember me, and I will be at your side."

"In return for this," said the falcon, "if swiftness of wing or the crook of a claw can help you, remember me, and I will be at your side."

On went the lad till he came to a king's castle, where he took service as a herdsman. His wages were to be according to the yield of milk.

On the first day the grazing place was rather bare, and his wages were very small when night came. So on the next day he sought out better pasture, and he found a glen so green that he had never seen its like before.

But as he drove his cattle homeward he met a giant with a sword in his hand.

Koviloor Acadamy

"Ho! ha! ho!" cried the giant, "these cattle are mine, for they are on my land, and now I will kill you."

"One can never tell," said the herd quietly; "but that may be easier to say than to do."

Then they closed with each other, but the lad came only up to his enemy's waist. Yet for all that he fought stoutly; and as they struggled the black dog leapt on the giant's back.

The giant turned his head, and in a moment the herd cut it off with his sword. Then he mounted upon the black horse and went to look for the giant's house.

He found it at last, and going from room to room saw more gold, jewels, and fine clothes than he had ever seen or even dreamt of in his life. He touched nothing, however, but came away empty-handed.

When the cows were milked that night they gave such milk as had never been seen before. And the king was greatly pleased with his new herdsman.

Koviloor Acadamy

IV.

When the cows had eaten all the grass in these fine fields, the herdsman thought he would go a little farther on the giant's land. He soon found a great park of grass, into which he drove his cattle.

They had not been long in that place before another great giant came.

"Ho! ha! ho!" he cried, "it's a drink of thy blood that I must take to quench my thirst this night."

"There is no knowing," said the herd; "but that may be easier to say than to do."

Thereupon they set upon each other, and great was the shaking of blades. At last it seemed as if the giant would get the victory. But the black dog came once more to the help of the herdsman, so that he was able to strike off the giant's head with his sword.

The herd went home very tired that night, but the cattle gave even better milk than before. And the king was greatly pleased that he had found a servant so true and faithful.

He ran away as fast as he could.

Koviloor Acadamy

For some time things went well enough with the herd. But one night when he came home he found the dairymaid crying as if her heart would break.

He asked her what was the matter, and she told him that there was a great dragon with three heads in the loch. It came up to the surface, she said, every year, and each time a fair maiden was given it to devour; and this year the lot had fallen upon the king's daughter.

"Is there none to fight for her?" asked the herd.

"Yes, indeed," said the maid; "there is a great general come to fight for her; and if he kills the dragon he is to have the king's daughter for his wife."

Next morning the great general went out to fight the monster. But when he saw it lying in the middle of the loch he lost heart, and ran away as fast as he could go. And he left the king's daughter to be devoured by the dragon.

In great terror she cast her eyes around, when she saw a fine youth on a black horse come riding towards her. He was

Koviloor Acadamy

gaily dressed and fully armed, and a black dog ran at his horse's heels.

"Your face is sad, maiden," said the youth. "What ails you?"

"Oh, that does not matter," said the king's daughter. "I shall not be long here, in any case."

"Do not say that," said he.

"A brave man like yourself has just run away," said she.

"He is a brave man who *faces* the danger," said he.

Then he got down from his horse, and told her to take the ring from her hand and put it upon his little finger. She did so, and he went with his sword and his dog to meet the monster.

Soon the fight began, and great was the noise and the splashing. The king's daughter was almost overcome with fear, until at last the young man cut off one of the heads of the dragon.

It gave one loud roar, which was answered by the echo among the hills. Then it dived into the water with a great splash, and was soon out of sight.

Koviloor Acadamy

"Good luck to you, sir," said the king's daughter. "I am safe for one night. But the monster will come again and again until the two other heads are cut off."

Then the young man gave her the head to carry home, and told her to bring it with her to that same place on the morrow. Away she went, and on her way home she met the general. She was going to pass him by when he stood in her way; and he said he would kill her unless she told her father that *he*, and no other, had cut off the monster's head.

"Oh!" said she, "I will say it. Who else, indeed, could take it off?"

Then they went home, and great was the joy at their return.

V.

The next day they went again to the loch. Once more the monster arose; and once more the great general took to his heels, and never looked behind him.

Then the young man came again dressed in another suit of clothes. But the princess knew him in spite of the change.

Koviloor Acadamy

He got down from his horse and begged for her earring, which she gave him.

Then he went once more to the fight, which was long and stern. Night was falling before he was able to cut off the second head of the monster. Again he gave the trophy to the king's daughter; and once again she met the great general as she was returning home.

On the third day things went on as before, and the last head was cut off the dragon. This time also the king's daughter gave an earring to the young man on the black horse.

Great was the joy in the king's palace; and the next day was fixed for the wedding of his daughter and the general. But when all was ready, the girl said she would marry no one but the man who was able to take the monster's heads off the withy on which they were strung.

"Who should take them off indeed," said the king, "but the man who put them on?"

Then the general tried to take them off, but he could not do so, try as he

All was ready for the wedding.

Koviloor Acadamy

would. So the king asked others to try, but they had no more success. At last he sent for the young herdsman, who took them off with ease.

The king's daughter looked at him, and began to wonder whether this was the young man who had fought for her. But she was ready with a test.

"The man that cut the heads from the monster has my ring and my two earrings," said she.

The herdsman put his hand into his pocket and drew them out.

"You are my man," said she. And that same day they were married.

VI.

For a while all went well. Then one day the king's daughter and her husband were walking by the loch, and another great monster came out and drew him under the waves.

Great was the grief of the princess at the loss of her husband. Away she went to an old smith who lived in the village, and told him what had taken place.

The monster took away the princess.

Koviloor Acadamy

"Try the monster with your jewels," said the old man.

So she went back to the side of the loch and spread out her jewels upon the shore.

"Fine are thy jewels, king's daughter," said the monster.

"Finer than these is the jewel thou didst take from me," she said. "Give me but one sight of him, and thou shalt have the finest of these jewels."

The monster brought him up. "Deliver him to me, and thou shalt have all that thou seest," said the princess.

The monster did as she asked; and once more the man stood safe and sound by the side of his wife.

On another day they walked by the side of the loch, and this time the monster arose and took away the princess herself. The grief of her husband was almost greater than he could bear, and he wandered up and down by the side of the loch day and night.

Then the old smith met him. "There is only one way," he said, "of killing the

Koviloor Acadamy

monster, and it is this. On the island in the middle of the loch there is a white-footed hind with slender legs and swift step. If she can be caught, there will spring a crow out of her; and if the crow can be caught, there will spring a trout out of her. There is an egg in the mouth of the trout; and if the egg should be broken the dragon will die.

VII.

Now there was no way of reaching this island, for the monster would soon sink any boat or raft that might venture on the loch. So the young man thought he would jump across to it upon his black horse; and this he did at one leap, while his great black dog leapt after him.

At once he saw the white-footed hind, and the black dog ran after her; but she was too fleet of foot for the hound.

"I wish," said the man, "that the great dog were here that I saw by the roadside when I left my father's house."

No sooner had he said this than the dog was at his side. In a few moments

Koviloor Acadamy

the hind was caught; but as soon as the young man laid hands on her a crow sprang out of her.

"I wish," said the young man, "that I had now that falcon of sharpest eye and swiftest wing."

No sooner had he spoken than the falcon was chasing the crow, and it was not long before the chase was over. But as the crow fell on the bank of the loch a trout jumped out of her and leapt into the water.

"I wish," said the young man, "that I had now the otter by me."

No sooner had he said this than the otter came to his side, and brought the trout from the midst of the loch; and when the fish was laid on the bank the egg rolled out of its mouth.

At once the man sprang forward and put his foot upon the egg. Then the dragon set up a great roar, and cried, "Break not the egg, and you shall have all you wish."

"I seek my wife," cried the man.

In a moment she came to his side, but

Koviloor Acadamy

not quickly enough to prevent his foot from crushing the egg. So the monster came to its death, and husband and wife stood once more side by side. Soon they were on their way to the palace of the king, who gave great honour to his son-in-law. He made him a prince in his own right.

Koviloor Acadamy

MABEL ON MIDSUMMER DAY.

Part I.

"Arise, my maiden Mabel,"
The mother said, "arise,
For the golden sun of midsummer
Is shining in the skies.

"Arise, my little maiden,
For thou must speed away
To wait upon thy grandmother
The livelong summer day;

"And thou must carry with thee
This wheaten cake so fine,
This new-made pat of butter,
And this little flask of wine.

"And tell the dear old granny
This day I cannot come,
For thy father went out yesterday,
And is not yet come home.

"And more than this—poor Amy
Upon my knee doth lie;
I fear me, with this fever-pain
The precious child will die!

"And thou canst help thy grandmother:
The table thou canst spread,
Canst feed the little dog and bird,
And thou canst make her bed;

Koviloor Acadamy

"And thou canst fetch the water
From the crystal well hard by;
And thou canst gather in the wood
The fagots brown and dry;

"Canst go down into lonesome glen
And milk the mother ewe,—
This is the work, my Mabel,
That thou wilt have to do.

"But listen now, my Mabel:
This is Midsummer day,
When all the fairy people
From Elf-land come away.

"And when thou art in lonesome glen,
Lest mischief should befall,
Think only of poor Amy,
And how thou lov'st us all.

"Yet keep good heart, my Mabel,
If thou the fairies see,
And give them kindly answer,
If they should speak to thee.

"And when into the fir wood
Thou go'st for fagots brown,
Do not, like idle children,
Go wandering up and down.

Koviloor Acadamy

"But fill thy little apron,
My child, with earnest speed,
And that thou break no living bough
Within the wood, take heed.

"For they are spiteful brownies
Who in the wood abide;
So be thou careful of this thing,
Lest evil should betide.

"But think not, little Mabel,
Whilst thou art in the wood,
Of dwarfish, wilful brownies,
But of the Father good.

"And when thou goest to the spring
To fetch the water thence,
Do not disturb the little stream,
Lest this should give offence.

"For the queen of all the fairies
She loves that water bright;
I've seen her drinking there myself
On many a summer night.

"But she's a gracious lady,
And her thou need'st not fear;
Only disturb thou not the stream,
Nor spill the water clear."

Koviloor Acadamy

"Now all this I will heed, mother,
Will no word disobey,
And wait upon the grandmother
The livelong summer day."

Part II.

Away tripped little Mabel
With the wheaten cake so fine,
The new-made pat of butter,
And the little flask of wine.

And long before the sun was hot
And morning mists had cleared,
Beside the good old grandmother
The willing child appeared.

And all her mother's message
She told with right good will—
How that her father was away,
And the little child was ill.

And then she swept the hearth up clean,
And then the table spread,
And next she fed the dog and bird,
And then she made the bed.

"Now go, child," said the grandmother,
"Ten paces down the dell,
And bring up water for the day;
Thou know'st the crystal well."

Koviloor Acadamy

The first time that good Mabel went,
Nothing at all saw she
Except a bird—a sky-blue bird—
That sat upon a tree.

The next time that good Mabel went,
There sat a lady bright
Beside the well—a lady small,
All clothed in green and white.

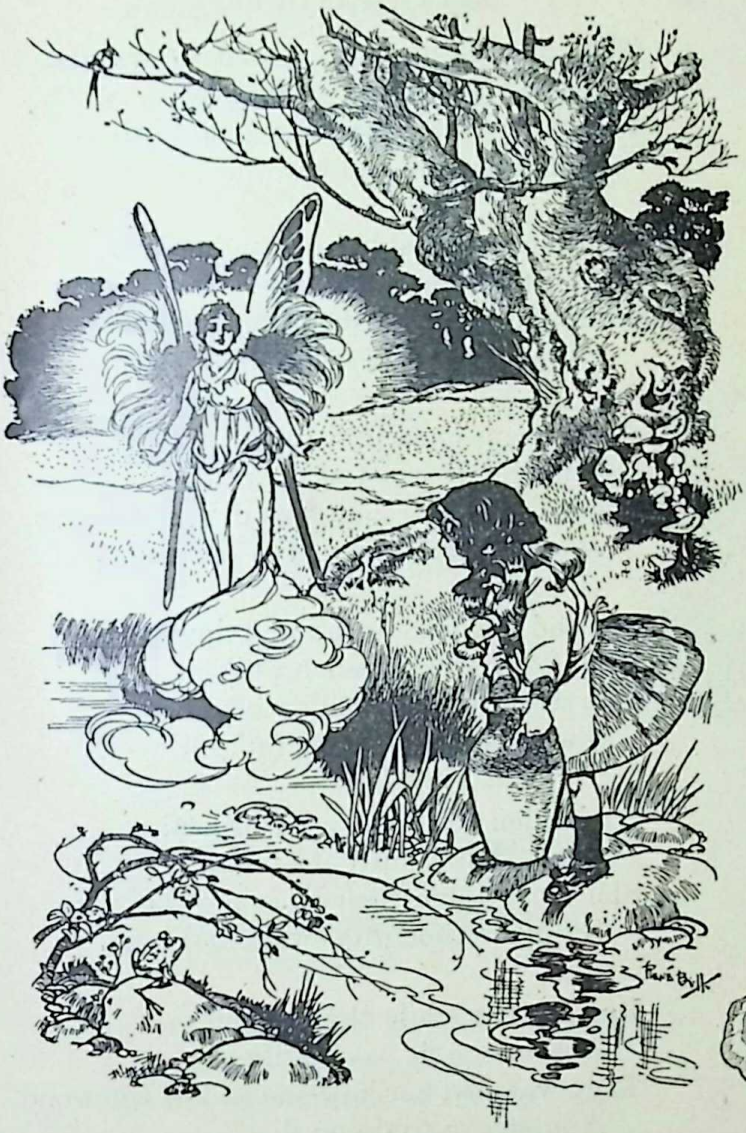
A curtsy low made Mabel,
And then she stooped and filled
Her pitcher at the sparkling spring,
But not a drop she spilled.

"Thou art a handy maiden,"
The fairy lady said;
"Thou hast not spilled a drop, nor yet
The fair spring troublèd.

"And for this thing which thou hast done,
Yet may'st not understand,
Thou shalt possess a better gift
Than houses or than land.

"Thou shalt do right whate'er thou dost,
As thou hast done this day;
Shalt have the will and power to please,
And shalt be loved alway."

Koviloor Acadamy



" Thou art a handy maiden."

Koviloor Acadamy

Thus having said, she passed from sight,
And nought could Mabel see
Except the bird—the sky-blue bird—
That sat upon the tree.

"And now go," said the grandmother,
"And fetch in fagots dry
From out the neighbouring fir wood;
Beneath the trees they lie."

Away went cheerful Mabel
Into the fir wood near,
Where all the ground was dry and brown,
And the grass grew thin and sear.

She did not wander up and down,
Nor yet a live branch pull,
But steadily of the fallen boughs
She picked her apron full.

And when the wild wood brownies
Came sliding into her mind,
She drove them thence, as she was told,
By home thoughts sweet and kind.

But all that while the brownies,
Within the fir wood still,
They watched her how she picked the wood
And strove to do no ill.

Koviloor Acadamy

"And oh, but she is small and neat!"
Said one; "'twere shame to spite
A creature so demure and meek,
A creature harmless quite!"

"Look only," said another,
"At her little gown of blue,
At the kerchief pinned about her head,
And at her tiny shoe!"

"Nay, but she is a comely child!"
Said a third; "and we will lay
A good-luck penny in her path,
A boon for her this day,
Because she broke no living wood,
No live thing did affray."

With that the smallest penny
Of the finest silver ore
Upon the dry and slippery path
Lay Mabel's feet before.

With joy she picked the penny up,
The fairy penny good,
And with her fagots dry and brown
Went quickly from the wood.

"Now she has that," said the brownies,
"Let flax be ever so dear,
Will buy her clothes of the very best
For many and many a year!"

Koviloor Acadamy

"And now go," said the grandmother,
"Since falling is the dew,
Go now into the lonesome glen
And milk the mother ewe."

All down into the lonesome glen
Through copses thick and wild,
Through moist rank grass, by trickling streams,
Went on the willing child.

And when she came to lonesome glen
She kept beside the burn,
And neither plucked the strawberry flower,
Nor broke the lady fern.

And whilst she milked the mother ewe
Within the lonesome glen,
She wished that little Amy
Were strong and well again.

And soon as she had wished the wish,
She heard a coming sound,
As if a thousand fairy folk
Were gathering all around.

And then she heard a little voice,
Shrill as the midge's wing,
That spoke aloud: "A human child
Is here—yet mark this thing!

Koviloor Acadamy

"The lady fern is all unbroke,
The strawberry flower unta'en!
What shall be done for her who still
From mischief can refrain?"

"Give her a fairy cake," said one;
"Grant her a wish," said three;
"The latest wish that she has wished,"
Said all, "whate'er it be."

Kind Mabel heard the word they said,
And from the lonesome glen
Unto the good old grandmother
Went gladly back again.

Thus happened it to Mabel
On that Midsummer day,
And these three fairy blessings
She took with her away.

'Tis good to make all duty sweet,
To be alert and kind—
'Tis good, like little Mabel,
To have a willing mind!

MARY HOWITT.

Koviloor Acadamy

THE THREE FOOLISH PEOPLE.

I.

Once upon a time there was a farmer who had an only daughter. The girl was very pretty, and a certain young man who lived not far from her father's farm wished to marry her.

Every evening he used to come to see her, and he always stayed to supper with the farmer and his wife. Before they sat down, the daughter would go into the cellar to fetch a jug of cider.

One evening she went as usual to draw the cider. As she was doing so, she happened to look up at the ceiling; and lying across one of the beams she saw a mallet. She had not noticed it before, and the sight of it set her thinking.

"Suppose," she said, "that when I am married my husband were to come down here to draw the cider, and the mallet were to fall on his head and kill him! What a dreadful thing it would be!"

So dreadful did it appear to be that

Koviloor Acadamy

she put down the candle and the jug and sat down to cry.

Soon those upstairs began to wonder how it was that the girl took such a long time to draw the cider; and at last her mother went down to see what she was doing. She found the girl sitting on a wooden seat crying as if her heart would break.

"Why, whatever is the matter?" asked the mother.

"O mother, look at that horrid mallet," said the girl. "Suppose I were to be married, and one day my husband were to come here to draw cider, and the mallet were to fall on his head and kill him, what a dreadful thing it would be!"

"Dear, dear!" said the mother. "It would be dreadful indeed." Then she sat down beside her daughter and started to cry too.

After a while the father came down to see what was the matter with his wife and daughter. They told him why they were crying.

"Dear, dear, dear!" he said. "It

Koviloor Acadamy

would be dreadful, to be sure." Then he sat down beside the other two and began to cry to keep them company.

Before long the young man upstairs began to grow tired of staying in the kitchen by himself. So he too came downstairs, and there he found all three crying side by side, and the cider running from the tap all over the floor.

At once he ran forward and turned the tap of the cask. Then he said, "Whatever is the matter with you all?"

"Oh!" said the father, "look at that horrid mallet. Suppose you were to be married and were to come down here one day to draw the cider, and the mallet were to fall on your head and kill you! Wouldn't that be a dreadful thing?"

Then all three began to cry more loudly than ever; but the young fellow began to laugh. Reaching up to the beam, he took down the mallet and then said,—

"I have travelled many miles, but I have never met three people as foolish as you are. Now I will start on my travels again; and if I can find three people

Koviloor Acadamy

more foolish than you, I will come back to be married."

So he wished them good-bye at once, and started off on his travels. And the girl cried more than ever because now she had lost her sweetheart.

II.

The young man went a long way, and at last came to an old woman's cottage, on the roof of which some grass was growing.

Now the old woman was trying to get her cow to go up a ladder to the grass, but the poor thing was not used to climbing ladders. The young man asked the old woman what she was doing.

"Why, look at all that beautiful grass. I want to get my cow upon the roof to eat it. She will be quite safe, for I will tie a rope round her neck and pass it down the chimney. Then I will tie the other end to my wrist so that she cannot fall off without my knowing it."

"O you foolish woman!" said the young man. "You ought to cut the grass and throw it down to the cow."

At last she got her up.

Koviloor Acadamy

But the old woman thought it was easier to get the cow up the ladder than to get the grass down. So she pushed her and coaxed her till at last she got her up. Then she tied a rope to the cow's neck, passed it down the chimney, and fastened the other end to her own wrist.

The young man went on his way with a merry laugh. But he had not gone far when the cow tumbled off the roof and hung down the side of the house by the rope which was tied round her neck. And the weight of the cow tied to her wrist pulled the old woman up the chimney. If the young man had not cut the rope the cow would have been strangled and the old woman choked with the soot.

Well, that was *one* person more foolish than the three in the farmer's house.

Once again the young man set out on his travels. As night was falling he came to an inn. Here he wished to spend the night, but the innkeeper had no bedroom to spare.

Koviloor Acadamy

The young man was turning away when the innkeeper said,—

"If you do not mind sharing a room with another man, you may have one of the beds in the double room."

"With pleasure," said the young man in his merry way.

The other traveller was also a pleasant fellow, and the two got on very well together.

In the morning the young man was getting up, when he saw his companion take his long boots and fasten them to two of the knobs on a chest of drawers. Then he ran across the room several times and tried to jump into his boots, but always missed them.

"What stupid things long boots are!" he said to the young man. "It takes me nearly an hour every morning to jump into mine, and I get so very hot." Then he wiped the sweat from his face with the towel.

The young man burst into a merry laugh, and showed his new friend how to pull on his boots. The other was much

Koviloor Acadamy

obliged to him, and said he never would have thought of doing it in that way.

So that was a *second* person more foolish than the three at the farm.

On went the young man once more until he came at night-time to a certain village. Near this place there was a pond, and round the pond stood a crowd of people.

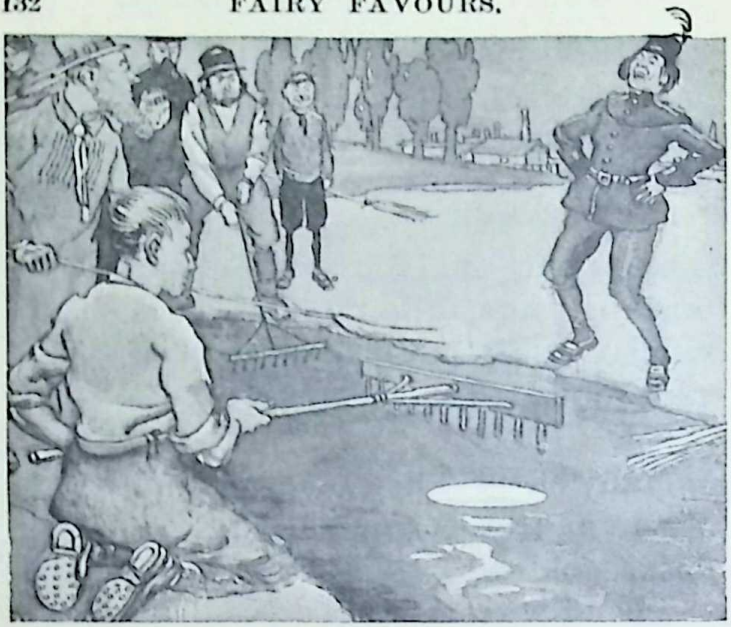
Many of them had rakes in their hands, others had brooms, and a few had pitch-forks; and with these they were raking the pond with great care.

"What have you lost? What is the matter?" asked the young man.

"Matter enough," was the answer. "The moon has tumbled into the pond, and we cannot get her out, try as we may."

Then the young man laughed, and laughed, and laughed again; and when he was able to speak, he pointed up to the sky and said that it was only the reflection of the moon that they saw in the water.

Koviloor Acadamy



But they only laughed at him, and some of them were going to throw him into the pond "to fetch out the moon," as they said. Then he turned and went on his way as quickly as he could.

Here, then, was a whole crowd of people more foolish than the three at the farm. So, having given his word, the young man went back and married the farmer's daughter. And it is to be hoped that he taught her to be as wise and good-tempered as himself.

Koviloor Acadamy

CHANGE ABOUT.

THERE was an old man who lived in a wood,
As you may plainly see;
He said he could do as much work in a day
As his wife could do in three.
"With all my heart," the old woman said,
"If that you will allow,
To-morrow you'll stay at home in my stead,
And I'll go drive the plough:

"But you must milk the Tidy cow
For fear that she go dry;
And you must feed the little pigs
That are within the sty;
And you must mind the speckled hen
For fear she lay away;
And you must reel the spool of yarn
That I spun yesterday."

The old woman took a staff in her hand
And went to drive the plough:
The old man took a pail in his hand
And went to milk the cow;
But Tidy hinched, and Tidy flinched,
And Tidy broke his nose,
And Tidy gave him such a blow
That the blood ran down to his toes.

Koviloor Acadamy

"High! Tidy, ho! Tidy, high!
Tidy, do stand still;
If ever I milk you, Tidy, again,
'Twill be sore against my will!"
He went to feed the little pigs
That were within the sty;
He hit his head against the beam,
And he made the blood to fly.

He went to mind the speckled hen
For fear she'd lay astray,
And he forgot the spool of yarn
His wife spun yesterday.
So he cried to the sun, the moon, and the stars,
And the green leaves on the tree,
"If my wife doesn't do a day's work in my life,
She shall ne'er be ruled by me."

Old Rhyme.

Koviloor Acadamy

MR. VINEGAR—THE HAPPIEST MAN ALIVE.

I.

One day when Mr. Vinegar was away from home, Mrs. Vinegar, who was a very good housewife, began to sweep out the rooms. She worked with such a will that, with an unlucky thump, she brought down the whole house clitter-clatter about her ears.

In great distress she ran out to meet her husband.

On seeing him, she cried, "O Mr. Vinegar, Mr. Vinegar, we are ruined! we are ruined! I have knocked the house down, and it is all in pieces."

Mr. Vinegar, who thought himself a very clever man, said quietly, "My dear, let us see what can be done. Here is the door, which is all that appears to be whole. I will take it on my back, and we will go forth to seek our fortune."

They walked all that day, and at night they came to a dense forest. Both were very tired, and Mr. Vinegar said, "My

Koviloor Acadamy

dear, I will climb up into a tree, drag up the door, and then you can follow."

He did so; and having placed the door across two branches, they both lay down upon it and fell fast asleep.

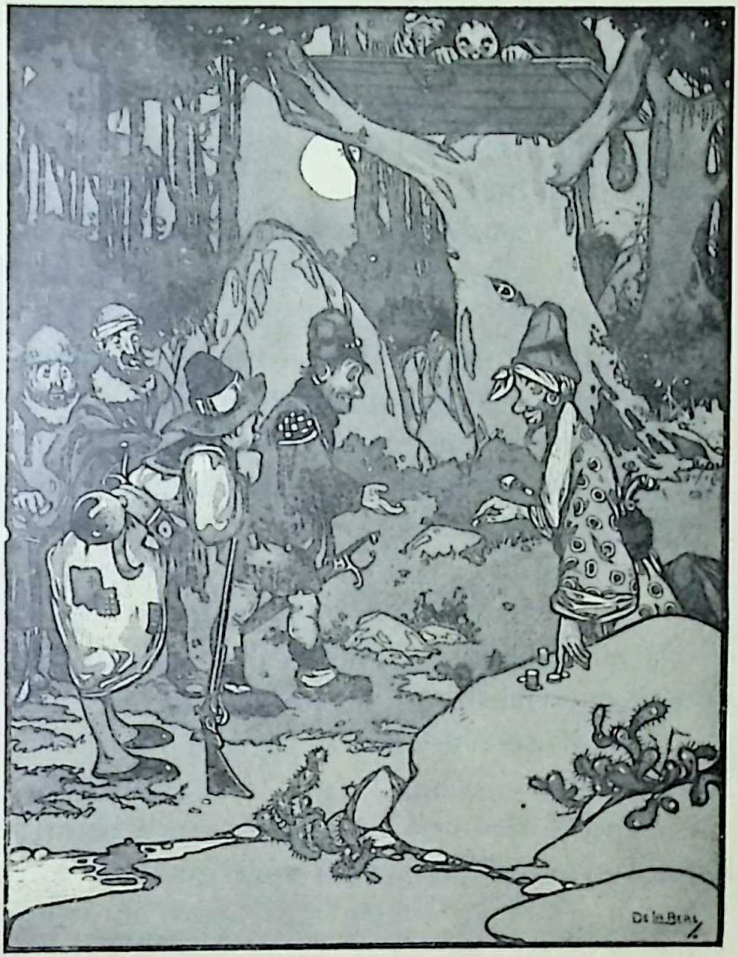
In the middle of the night Mr. Vinegar was disturbed by the sound of voices beneath. He listened, and to his great dismay soon made out that a party of robbers had met beneath the tree to divide their spoil.

"Here, Jack," said one, "here's five guineas for you; here, Bill, here's ten for you; here, Bob, here's three for you."

Mr. Vinegar could listen no longer; his fear was so great that he began to tremble, and down fell the door almost upon the heads of the men. Away ran the robbers in great terror, but Mr. Vinegar dared not come down from the tree until day had dawned.

Then he scrambled down, and with a great effort lifted up the door. What did he see on the ground beneath it but a number of golden guineas!

"Come down, Mrs. Vinegar," he cried,



A party of robbers had met beneath the tree.

Koviloor Acadamy

"come down, I say; our fortune's made, our fortune's made! Come down, I say!"

Mrs. Vinegar came down as fast as she could, and looked at the money with great delight.

"Now, my dear," said she, "I will tell you what you must do. There is a fair to-day at the town not far away. You shall take these guineas—I see that there are forty of them—and buy a cow. I can make butter and cheese, which you shall sell at the market. So we shall be able to live in great comfort."

II.

Mr. Vinegar thought his wife had spoken with true wisdom, and at once went off to the fair with the money in his pocket. When he got there he walked up and down, and at length saw a beautiful red cow. It was a very good milker, and perfect in every way, said the man who had charge of it.

"Oh," thought Mr. Vinegar, "if only I had that cow, I should be the happiest

Koviloor Acadamy

man alive. So he made an offer of the forty guineas for the animal. The owner thought a little, and then said that, as Mr. Vinegar was a friend, he would let him have it at that price. So the bargain was made.

Mr. Vinegar was very proud of his cow; and he drove her backwards and forwards in the crowded market-place to show what a very fine animal she was.

By-and-by there came along a man playing the bagpipes—*tweedle-dum, tweedle-dee.* The children followed him about, and he seemed to be making money very fast indeed.

"Well," thought Mr. Vinegar, "if only I had that beautiful instrument, I should be the happiest man alive—my future would be secure." So he went up to the man.

"Friend," he said, "what a beautiful instrument that is, and what a lot of money you must be making!"

"Why, yes," said the man, "I make a lot of money, to be sure, and it is indeed a very beautiful instrument."

Koviloor Acadamy

"Oh," said Mr. Vinegar, "I should be the happiest man alive if only it was mine."

"Indeed!" said the other. "As you are a friend, I don't much mind parting with it. You shall have it in exchange for that red cow."

"Done!" cried the delighted Mr. Vinegar. So the beautiful red cow was given in exchange for the bagpipes.

Then Mr. Vinegar began to walk up and down with his bagpipes; but he

Koviloor Acadamy

soon found that he could not play them, and instead of giving him money, the boys and men of the town ran after him hooting, laughing, and pelting.

III.

Poor Mr. Vinegar was now very much cast down. After a while he thought it best to leave the town, and soon made his way from the market-place.

He trudged along the road feeling rather ashamed of his folly, when he met a man wearing a fine thick pair of gloves. "My fingers are very cold," said Mr. Vinegar to himself. "If only I had those beautiful gloves, I should be the happiest man alive."

He went up to the man and said, "Friend, you are wearing a very nice pair of gloves."

"Yes, indeed," said the man, "and my hands are as warm as possible on this cold day."

"Well," said Mr. Vinegar, "I should like to buy them from you."

"That you can easily do," said the

Koviloor Acadamy

other. "I will let you have them in exchange for those bagpipes."

"Done!" cried Mr. Vinegar in great glee. Then he put on the gloves, and felt perfectly happy as he trudged homewards. Before long, however, he began to grow very tired.

Then he saw a man coming towards him with a good stout stick in his hand. "Oh," said Mr. Vinegar, "if only I had that stick, I should be the happiest man alive."

"Friend," said he to the man, "what a fine stick you have got!"

"Yes," said the other, "I have used it for many a long mile, and a great help it has been, I can tell you. But if you would like to have it, as you are a friend, I don't mind giving it to you for that pair of gloves."

Mr. Vinegar's hands were so warm and his legs so tired that he gladly made the exchange.

Soon he drew near to the wood where he had left his wife. As he entered it he heard a parrot on a tree calling out

Koviloor Acadamy

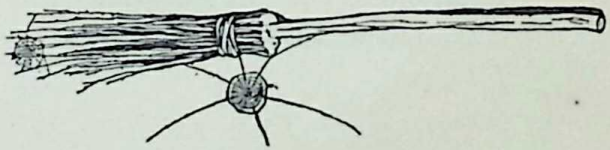
his name. "Mr. Vinegar," it cried, "you are a simpleton. What have you got for your forty guineas?"

This put him into such a passion that he threw the stick at the head of the bird. It lodged in the tree, and he came back to his wife without money, cow, bagpipes, gloves, or stick.

Soon he had told his story, and thought that his wife would be sorry for her ill-used husband. But, instead of that, she was very angry indeed; and she scolded him severely for his folly.

"You paid the price of the cow twice over," she said; "then you parted with a good milker for bagpipes you could not play; those you changed for gloves of less than one-fourth the value; then you changed these for a miserable stick not half so good as mine, which I cut from a tree not far away. Never in all my life did I see such a foolish fellow."

Poor Mr. Vinegar turned away, a sadder but a wiser man.



Koviloor Acadamy

THE LITTLE LAND.

When at home alone I sit
And am very tired of it,
I have just to shut my eyes
To go sailing through the skies—
To go sailing far away
To the pleasant Land of Play;
To the fairy land afar
Where the Little People are;
Where the clover-tops are trees,
And the rain-pools are the seas,
And the leaves, like little ships,
Sail about on tiny trips;
And above the daisy tree,
Through the grasses,
High o'erhead the Bumble Bee
Hums and passes.

In that forest to and fro
I can wander, I can go;
See the spider and the fly,
And the ants go marching by
Carrying parcels with their feet
Down the green and grassy street.
I can in the sorrel sit
Where the ladybird alit.
I can climb the jointed grass;
And on high

Koviloor Acadamy

See the greater swallows pass
In the sky,
And the round sun rolling by,
Heeding no such things as I.

Through that forest I can pass
Till, as in a looking-glass,
Humming fly and daisy tree
And my tiny self I see,
Painted very clear and neat
On the rain-pool at my feet.
Should a leaflet come to land,
Drifting near to where I stand,
Straight I'll board that tiny boat
Round the rain-pool sea to float.

Little thoughtful creatures sit
On the grassy coasts of it;
Little things with lovely eyes
See me sailing with surprise.
Some are clad in armour green
(These have sure to battle been);
Some are pied with every hue—
Black and crimson, gold and blue;
Some have wings, and swift are gone;
But they all look kindly on.

When my eyes I once again
Open, and see all things plain:

Koviloor Acadamy

High bare walls, great bare floor;
Great big knobs on drawer and door;
Great big people perched on chairs,
Stitching tucks and mending tears,
Each a hill that I could climb,
And talking nonsense all the time—
O dear me,
That I could be
A sailor on the rain-pool sea,
A climber in the clover-tree,
And just come back, a sleepy head,
Late at night to go to bed.

R. L. Stevenson.

(*By permission of Messrs. Longmans, Green, and Co., Ltd.*)

Koviloor Acadamy

THE EMPEROR'S DREAM.

I.

MAXIMUS was emperor of Rome; and he was a finer man to look upon, as well as better and wiser, than any ruler before him.

One day he went out to hunt with two-and-thirty crowned kings, who served him as their lord. The sun was high in the sky and the heat was great. Then sleep came upon the emperor, and he lay down to rest under a cover of shields, which his men had set up.

And he dreamed a dream, and this is the dream that he saw. He was going along a valley when he came to the highest mountain in the world. And when he had passed the mountain, he went through the fairest and most level lands that man had ever beheld.

Now a large and mighty river ran from the mountain to the sea. He travelled on towards the mouth of the river till he came to a great city with a vast castle in

Koviloor Acadamy

the centre of it. And he saw a fleet at the mouth of the river, and one of the ships was larger and finer than all the others.

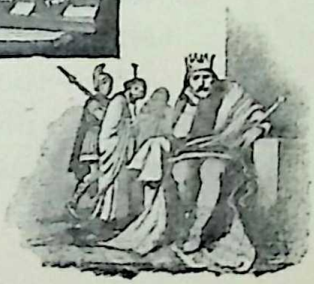
He saw a bridge of whalebone from the ship to the land, and he thought that he went along the bridge and came to the ship. Then a sail was hoisted on the ship, and along the sea and the outer ocean it was borne.

Then it seemed that he came to the fairest island in the whole world. Here he saw valleys and rocks, and mountains reaching to the sky. And not far away he beheld a smaller island in the sea facing this rugged land.

And over against the island was a plain through which ran a mighty river. At the mouth of the river he saw a castle, the fairest he had ever beheld; and the gate being open he went into the castle.

There he saw a lofty hall, of which the roof seemed to be of gold, the walls of precious gems, and the doors of red gold. There were golden seats in the hall, and

The emperor saw a maiden sitting before him.



Koviloor Acadamy

silver tables. And on a bench near to him he saw two youths, with hair like red gold, playing at chess.

They had a silver chess-board, and the chess-men were of gold. The garments of the youths were of jet-black satin, and round their hair they had bands of ruddy gold, in which were set many jewels of great price. Their boots were of new leather, fastened with clasps of gold.

Beside a pillar in the hall the emperor saw a white-haired man in a chair of ivory, on which were carved the figures of two eagles. Bracelets of gold were on his arms, and many rings were on his hands, and a collar of gold about his neck, and upon his head was a golden crown.

He was a man of great height and breadth. A chess-board of gold was before him and a rod of gold; and he held a steel file in his hand, with which he was shaping chess-men.

And the emperor saw a maiden sitting before him in a chair of ruddy gold. It was no easier to gaze upon the sun at its

Koviloor Acadamy

highest than it was to look upon her by reason of her beauty.

A vest of white silk was upon her, with clasps of red gold at the neck. Over this she wore a coat of the cloth of gold. A frontlet of red gold was upon her head, and it was set with rubies and stones of great price; and a golden girdle was about her waist. She was the fairest maiden that any man ever beheld.

Then the girl saw the emperor, and without a word she rose and stood before him. And he placed his hand upon her shoulder, and they sat down together side by side.

Then the chafing of the dogs at the leash, and the noise of the huntsmen, and the neighing of the horses woke the emperor from his sleep.

II.

When he awoke, the face of the emperor was sadder than that of any man who had ever been seen. He went home to his palace, but the song and the feast had no charms for him. Seldom did he speak

Koviloor Acadamy

to any one, and the palace was filled with gloom.

One day a page came to him and said,—

"Sire, the people speak ill of thee."

"Why so?" asked the emperor.

"Because," said the page, "they get no kind words from thee, as men should have from their lord."

"Youth," said the emperor, "lead to me the wise men of Rome, and I will tell them the cause of my sorrow."

So the wise men of Rome were brought to the emperor, and he told them of his dream. Then they said to him,—

"Send messengers to the three parts of the world to seek for the maiden whom you saw in the hall."

Then messengers were sent out into many lands seeking news of the maiden of the emperor's dream. But when they all came back not one of them had any tidings of her.

One of the kings who served the emperor then said to him,—

"My lord, let us go out to the hunt, as you did on the day of your dream."

Koviloor Acadamy

"Lead to me the wise men."

This they did; and when they came to the place where he had rested, the emperor said,—

"Go now to the westward, for there lies the land of my dream."

So there were chosen thirteen messengers, who travelled far to the west, until they came to the island of Britain. This they knew at once to be the country of which their master had dreamt. And they went through the land until they came to Snowdon.

Koviloor Acadamy

"Behold," cried they, "the rocky land of which our lord hath told us."

Then they went forward and found in turn the river, the castle, and the hall which the emperor had seen in his dream.

Within the hall they found the two youths playing at chess, and the white-haired man beside the pillar shaping chess-men. And they saw also the lovely maiden sitting on the chair of ruddy gold.

The messengers bent down on their knees.

"Empress of Rome, all hail!" they cried.

"Mock me not," said the maiden gently.

"Nay, it is no mockery," said the messengers; "for the emperor hath seen thee in his dream, and he hath no spirit left in him. Choose now. Wilt thou come to Rome as a bride, or shall the emperor come and fetch thee?"

"If the emperor love me," said the maiden, "let him come here to seek me."

By day and by night the messengers hurried back; and when their horses failed they bought fresh ones. When

Koviloor Acadamy

they came to Rome they sought out their master, and begged to be his guides to the maiden of his dream.

At once the emperor set out with an army, and came at last to the island of Britain, where he had to fight for his footing. But he overcame his foes, and pressed on to the rocky land of Snowdon; and there he found the maiden in the chair of ruddy gold.

"Empress of Rome," he cried, "all hail!" And that day the maiden, whose name was Helen, became his bride.

Koviloor Acadamy

IN THE NURSERY.

"Where do you go, Bob, when you're fast asleep?"

"Where? Oh well, I once went into a deep
Mine father told of, and a cross man said
He'd make me help to dig, and eat black bread.
I saw the queen once, in her room, quite near.
She said, 'You rude boy, Bob, how came you here?'"

"Was it like mother's boudoir?"

"Grander far:
Gold chains and things—all over diamonds—ah!"

"You're sure it was the queen?"

"Of course; a crown
Was on her, and a spangly purple gown."

"I went to heaven last night."

"O Lily, no.
How could you?"

"Yes I did—they told me so;
And my best doll, my favourite with the blue
Frock, Jasmine, I took her to heaven too."

Koviloor Acadamy

"What was it like?"

"A kind of—I can't tell—
A sort of orchard place in a long dell,
With trees all over flowers. And there were birds
Who could do talking, say soft pretty words;
They let me stroke them, and I showed it all
To Jasmine. And I heard a blue dove call,
'Child, this is heaven.' I was not frightened when
It spoke. I said, 'Where are the angels then?'"

"Well?"

"So it said, 'Look up and you shall see.'
There were two angels sitting in a tree,
As tall as mother; they had long gold hair.
They let drop down the fruit they gathered there,
And little angels came for it, so sweet—
Here they were beggar children in the street—
And the dove said they had the prettiest things,
And wore their best frocks every day."

"And wings—
Had they no wings?"

"Oh yes, and lined with white
Like swallow wings, so soft, so very light,
Fluttering about."

Koviloor Acadamy

"Well?"

"Well, I did not stay,
So that was all."

"They made you go away?"

"I did not *go*—but—I was gone."

"I know.

"But it's a pity, Bob, we never go
Together."

"Yes, and have no dreams to tell,
But the next day both know it all quite well."

"And, Bob, if I could dream you came with me,
You would be there perhaps."

"Perhaps. We'll see."

JEAN INGELOW. (*By permission.*)

Koviloor Acadamy

THINGS TO SAY AND DO.

General Questions.

1. What is the title of this book? You may say it has two titles, but please name the title which is given to this book alone.
2. What is a treasury? How can a book be called by this name?
3. What is meant by a royal treasury? Name some one who is royal. Are you?
4. Where is the title "Fairy Favours" printed?
5. What is a favour? Who wears favours, and when and where?
6. Turn to page 78. Read the lines marked III., but stop for a moment at the eleventh line. Why do you think I ask you to stop there?
7. Try to get a cowslip and find the spots upon it. What is the colour of these spots? Why are they called rubies in the poem?
8. Find the title-page of this book. What names are printed upon it?
9. What is shown in the little picture in the middle of the title-page? Why are these things shown here?
10. What is meant by the Contents of a book?
11. Name the two divisions of the Contents of this book. (See page 5.)

Koviloor Acadamy

12. How can you tell which is the poetry of this volume?
13. What name is given to the readings which are not poetry?
14. Are the Fireside Tales poetry?
15. Write out the Contents again in the proper order of the readings.
16. Find the frontispiece of the book. What does it show? To which story does it belong?

The Iron Stove (*page* 7).

17. Why do most fairy stories belong to "days of old"?
18. Draw the little picture on page 7, but show the prince's face somewhere in your drawing.
19. Why did the prince make up his mind so quickly that he would like to marry the princess?
20. Try to make a little scene, as for a play, of the first section of this story. Perhaps your teacher will let you act it with some one.
21. What guide did the princess get to lead her back to her father's palace?
22. What is the princess doing in the small picture on page 11?
23. Were the king and his wise men *very* wise? Why do you think so?

Koviloor Acadamy

24. Name all the things in the picture on page 13.
25. Tell or write out what the king and the swineherd's daughter are saying.
26. Why did not the princess forget all about the iron stove as soon as she was once more safe at home?
27. What three words might the princess have said to her father?
28. Which questions on page 17 show that the frogs had something to do with the prince?
29. Describe the picture on page 19.
30. Is the princess suitably dressed for an adventure? If not, why not?
31. How did she use the three needles to climb up the glass mountain?
32. Draw the plough wheel.
33. Why did the princess feel afraid of the boat?
34. Was there any excuse for the prince taking another bride?
35. When had the frogs been changed?
36. What was it which took away the spell of the witch?

The Fairies of the Caldon-Low (*page* 24).

37. Which is Midsummer Night? What happens on that night?
38. How can one "see" the winds blow?

Koviloor Acadamy

39. How can you tell from verse 3 that Mary had been to Fairyland?
40. Why did she wish to get on her mother's knee before she told her story?
41. Which three people did the fairies help?
42. Count and name the kind deeds of which you have read in this poem.
43. If you were a clever artist, what coloured picture would you like to have to go with this story?
44. Make a drawing or a model of the mill.

Queen Mab and Oberon (*page* 29).

45. Try to make a drawing of the palace of the fairies and colour it.
46. Give some idea of the number of the fairies in Oberon's kingdom.
47. What do we mean when we say that Pigwiggin was a traitor?
48. How can you tell from the paragraph near the top of page 30 that the fairies are very small?
49. Turn over the pages from page 30 onward until you come to the maids on the back of the grasshopper.
50. Do you know another name for Queen Mab? If so, what is it?
51. Name all the things you can see in the larger picture on page 31.

Koviloor Acadamy

52. Make a model of Queen Mab's coach.
53. What is Oberon doing in the small picture on page 31? How do you know he is a king?
54. What is shown in the picture on page 32?
55. Draw a wasp, a glow-worm, and a bee, side by side.

56. Find an acorn cup, if it is autumn just now, and make it into a boat with a little sail.
57. The fairies flew *like chaff before the wind.* Put words instead of dashes in the following:

Oberon was like — — — —
The fairies danced like — — —
The fairy laughter was like — — —

58. What do you notice about (1) Puck's ears, (2) his face? (see page 33).
59. Name all the things you can see in the picture on page 35.

60. Who caused the dense mist to rise?
61. Are there any humans in this story?
62. Who is shown in the top picture on page 41?
63. Find a little song in a later part of this book which might have been sung by the ring of fairies on page 41.

The Fairy Queen (*page* 42).

64. Can you find out from these verses some of the things that people used to believe about the fairies in past times?

Koviloor Acadamy

65. Are you a "mortal"? How do you know?
66. What kind of music would be made by (1) the grasshopper; (2) the gnat; and (3) the fly? What kind when they played together?
67. How can you tell from the last verse that fairies are very light?
68. How does the grass sometimes show that the fairies have been dancing upon it?
69. Which words in these verses are new to you?

The Night-Piece (*page* 43).

70. Who is speaking these verses, and to whom?
71. Draw a shooting star in a dark sky.
72. Tell all you know about Will-o'-the-wisp.
73. Which words in these lines are new to you? Which of them would you never use in your own talk?

The Merry Tricks of Tom Thumb (*page* 44).

74. Who is shown in the pictures on pages 44 and 45? How is he dressed?
75. Name the other things shown in the picture on page 45.
76. What is a dwarf? Have you ever seen one? What is the opposite of a dwarf?
77. Put each of the following words into a sentence—wizard, enchanter, magic, conjurer, sage.

Koviloor Acadamy

78. Read page 46 very thoughtfully. Do you like the ploughman and his wife? Why?
79. Show that Merlin loved a joke (pages 46 and 47).
80. Why was the mouse's skin "tanned with the downy hair inside"? (page 47).
81. What do you think of the boy with the wallet? (page 49).
82. What was Tom Thumb's first real adventure?
83. Draw a cow's head with the mouth open showing the teeth.
84. Draw Tom behind a cow with his whip of barley straw.
85. Name all the things you can see in the picture on page 48.
86. Which coloured picture in this book goes with that part of the story on page 52? Say what is happening in this picture.
87. Certain things on page 53 show how very small Tom was. What are they?
88. Look closely at the picture on page 55. What season is it? How can you tell?
89. What kind of tricks do you think Tom Thumb would perform before the king?
90. Are there any flying mice to-day?
91. How does the artist show in the picture on page 58 how very small Sir Thomas Thumb was?

Koviloor Acadamy

92. Make a scale model of Tom's "palace of gold" (page 58), and a little figure of the tiny knight.
93. The Tom Thumb story is all a joke, but kings once kept dwarfs to amuse them. Can you suggest how the story came to be told, and for whom it was first made up?

Robin Good-fellow (*page* 61).

94. In which of the readings of this book have you already met Robin Good-fellow? How do you think he got his name?
95. What is shown on the picture on page 61?
96. Which words in this poem are new to you? Which of them would you take care not to use if you were writing a letter?
97. Describe the small pictures on pages 62 and 63, and the larger one on page 64.
98. Was Robin *always* playing mischievous tricks?
99. What is there on page 63 which reminds you of something on page 42?

Shemus and the Little People (*page* 65).

100. Make a drawing of the cabin of Shemus.
101. Why did people like those brooms best which had long heads?

Koviloor Acadamy

102. At what time of day did Shemus lie down to rest?
103. Name all the things you can see in the picture on page 67.
104. How do you play ninepins? (Make a drawing.)
105. What is a bog hole?
106. Make a drawing of the little cow in the bog hole.
107. Name all the things to be seen in the coloured picture on page 73.
108. Why would not Shemus stay with the fairies?
109. What had happened to the cow to make it fade away?
110. Were the fairies friendly to Shemus and his mother?
111. Try to make a happy ending to this story.

The Fairies (page 75).

112. Do you think this poem should be read slowly?
113. Pick out the words of this poem which are new to you.
114. How can you tell that this is a song of Ireland?
115. Draw one of the little men and colour him properly.

Koviloor Acadamy

116. Would you like a "crispy pancake of yellow tide-foam"?
117. Draw a frog watch-dog and kennel.
118. Why did the Little People plant thorn trees?
119. What is the difference between the first verse and the last?

Fairy Music (*page* 77).

120. Show the fairy Puck flying on a bat's back.
121. "Kist the wild waves whist" means kissed them so as to make them silent. Why did the fairies do this?
122. Pick out all the strange words in these verses.
123. To "bear the burthen" means to sing the chorus. What is the chorus in No. II.?
124. No. III. is another song of Puck. He has "hung a pearl in every cowslip's ear." Look at the picture on page 78. Who is collecting these pearls, and why do you think she is doing so?
125. No. IV. is sung by Oberon while Queen Mab (who is also called Titania) lies sleeping.
126. Make a drawing of a newt.
127. Philomel is another name for the nightingale. Why is it chosen to sing the lullaby of the Fairy Queen?

Koviloor Acadamy

128. Why do you think these poems are called "Fairy Music"?

The Mermaid's Cap (*page* 80).

129. What is a mermaid? Has the mermaid of this story got a fish's tail?
130. Name all the things to be seen in the picture on page 81.
131. What did Pat mean when he said he would make the mermaid Mrs. O'Hara?
132. How can you tell that this is another Irish story?
133. What had the mermaid been told about humans?
134. Which picture shows the King of the Ocean? Is he as handsome as his daughter is pretty?
135. How did it happen that the mermaid did not know anything about money?
136. Why were Pat's friends displeased with his choice of a bride?
137. In what way was Pat careless?
138. Why do we feel sure that Pat would be fond of his children?
139. What had taught Mrs. O'Hara to be very clean?
140. What was it that made her long to go back to her first home?
141. Did she behave unkindly to her children?

Koviloor Acadamy

142. Why did she never come back again?

The Fairy Shoemaker (*page* 90).

143. Pick out the words in this poem which are new to you. What do you guess a "rath" to be?

144. Who do you think says the words from "Tip-tap" to "at the storm"? Does he say anything else?

145. Who is shown in the picture on page 90?

146. Lepracaun is a name given in Ireland to a sprite or elf or fairy or goblin.

147. What is the meaning of "you're a made man"?

148. Make a drawing of a single crock full to the brim with gold.

149. Name all the things you can see in the picture on page 92.

150. How did the shoemaker escape?

The Herdsman who wedded the King's Daughter (*page* 94).

151. What would you say for (*a*) "plying his trade"? (*b*) "prosperous in his fishing"?

152. Name all the things you can see in the picture on page 97.

153. Why did the sea-maiden give the old fisherman four more years, and then seven more years in addition?

Koviloor Acadamy

154. Why did the young man give three shares of the sheep to the dog, two to the otter, and one to the falcon?

155. What did each creature offer in return for its share in the meat?

156. What is meant by "his wages were to be according to the yield of milk"?

157. Read page 100 very carefully, and then describe the young man's character in a few words.

158. How can you tell the size of the giant from the small picture on page 101?

159. What is meant by "the lot had fallen upon the king's daughter"? How do people "draw lots"?

160. Name all the things you can see in the picture on page 102.

161. Why did the young man ask the king's daughter to put her ring on his finger?

162. Were the young man and the king's daughter well matched? Say why you think so.

163. How does this story differ from many other stories in which a princess marries a brave man?

164. Show that the young man's kindness to animals saved his wife's life in the end.

165. What is happening in the picture on page 113?

Koviloor Acadamy

166. Finish the story in your own way by bringing in the old fisherman again.
167. Draw the hind with the crow springing out of her back.

Mabel on Midsummer Day (*page* 114).

168. In what way or ways does this poem resemble that which begins on page 24?
169. Put the mother's instructions to Mabel in your own words as your own mother might speak, and note what changes you make. Do not go farther than the end of the eighth verse.
170. What had Mabel to avoid when gathering fagots?
171. What did the mother mean by "disturbing" the little stream?
172. Is this a poem about people of to-day? How do you know?
173. Draw a picture of Mabel feeding the dog.
174. Does the picture on page 119 go with the story exactly? If you think it does not, how would you alter it?
175. Pick out the words in this poem which are new to you.
176. What kind of cloth is made from flax?
177. What is shown in the pictures on pages 122 and 123?

Koviloor Acadamy

178. What was Mabel's "latest wish"?
179. Try to make one or two more verses telling about Mabel coming home.

The Three Foolish People (*page* 124).

180. What is cider?
181. What is a mallet used for?
182. Have you ever met or heard of any one so foolish as the farmer, his wife, and their daughter? Think carefully about the exact way in which they showed their foolishness before you answer.
183. Draw the mother as shown near the foot of page 125, but make her seated and crying like her daughter.
184. Draw the father stepping down the stairs to the cellar.
185. What is your first thought about the young man?
186. Is this a story of the present day? How can you tell?
187. Name all the things you can see in the picture on page 128.
188. What had the old woman done which was really very clever?
189. Which would be heavier, the cow or the old woman?
190. Do you know of a story of any one as foolish as the old woman?

Koviloor Acadamy

191. You cannot see her face in the picture on page 128, but you can tell she is old. How?

192. Who was more foolish, the old woman or the man with the boots?

193. Recall and tell a famous story about a dog and a reflection in the water.

194. Write down the conversation between the young man and the farmer's daughter when they met again.

Change About (*page* 133).

195. If you could paint a picture to go with this story, what would you show in it? What colours would you use?

196. Who was cleverer, the man or his wife?

197. What is a plough used for? What is used to draw it?

198. Do you think the man's wife would be able to drive the plough?

199. Perhaps the old woman had her troubles with the man's work. Can you finish the following?

She went to drive the heavy plough,
That stood beside the gate;
But she.....
.... weight.

200. How do you think Tidy broke the man's nose?

Koviloor Acadamy

201. Make a list of the things named in this story, and put the words in A B C order.
202. What happens when a hen "lays astray"?
203. What time of day was it when the man said the last words of the story?
204. Where would the man find the cow; the pigs; the hen?
205. Write two words for you'll; I'll; 'twill; doesn't.
206. Have you ever done anything "sore against your will"?
207. Why did the woman spin yarn? How did she spin it?

Mr. Vinegar (*page* 135).

208. After having read this story, write down twelve questions or exercises for another pupil who has also read it.

The Little Land (*page* 144).

209. Who is shown in the small picture on page 144?
210. Draw a daisy tree with a fairy or goblin beneath it.
211. Draw an ant "carrying a parcel with its feet."
212. What would a real swallow look like to the Little People?
213. What little creature is "clad in armour green"?

Koviloor Acadamy

214. Pick out the words in these verses which are new to you.

The Emperor's Dream (*page* 147).

215. Where is Rome? What do you know about it?

216. Name all the things in the picture on page 149.

217. What colours would you use to make this picture into a coloured illustration? (Study the story carefully.)

218. Does the picture follow the story exactly?

219. What do you think of the maiden's answer to the emperor's messengers?

220. What is happening in the picture on page 155?

In the Nursery (*page* 156).

221. Write out this poem in the form of a little play with the name of the speaker before the words which he, or she, speaks.

222. Learn the lines which give Lily's idea of heaven.

223. Give an account of one of your own dreams—a pleasant one.

224. What is shown in the picture on page 158?

PRINTED IN GREAT BRITAIN AT
THE PRESS OF THE PUBLISHERS